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Support withdrawn in hospital row

Tory majority wiped out by MP's protest

JOHN MAJOR'S fragile Commons majority was wiped out last night after a Tory MP withdrew his support from the party, accusing ministers of torting promises" over

Sir John Gorst put the Government under increasing pressure by announcing that ministers should not expect his backing and refusing to commit himself to keeping the Conservatives in power in a confidence vote.

The announcement by Sir ohn, member for Hendon North, was in protest at ministers' refusal to keep open a hospital accident and emergency unit. It added to an air of crisis at Westminster as Cabinet ministers launched a campaign to restore unity

over Europe. Of the 651 MPs, Tory business managers can now count on the support of only 322 in a whipped vote, against 322 for the opposition parties. Four MPs, two from Labour, two from Conservative, do not vote because they act as speakers. There are two vacancies, Wirral South and Barnsley East. The Government's position is likely to get worse next Thursday when the Barnsley by-election returns a Labour

member. Although the Government usually enjoys a nine-vote cushion because the Ulster Unionists tend to vote with the doubt that this week's storm in Conservatives, there is little John's withdrawal of cooperation make Mr Major's administration more vulnerable

than ever before. Sir John wrote to Alastair Goodlad, the Tory Chief Whip, to explain his decision. He told a news conference: "I am today withdrawing my co-. operation from the Government and shall not treat the minor accident treatment whip" as either a summons to

Air deal pledge British Airways has indicated

but it would accept tough

conditions for its planned link with Amercian Airlines, which would crease the world's big-

gest air partnership Page 25

Death verdict

A coroner has called for re-

forms to police training after a

jury returned a verdict of

accidental death on a suspect

whose death in police custody

sparked a riot Page 3

The Times on the Internet



Gorst: "I withdraw my co-operation"

attend the Commons or as placing me under any obliga-tion to vote as advised." Asked if he would support the Goverroment in a confidence vote. he said only: "Wait and see."
Although Michael Hesel-

tine, the Deputy Prime Minister, underlined that Sir John had not actually resigned the Tory whip, which would make him ineligible to stand for the party in the general election, senior Tories admitted that his

decision was damaging.
Hugh Dykes (Harrow
East), who has backed Sir
John's three-year campaign over the threatened closure of the accident and emergency department at Edgware Hospital, north London, said that he was awaiting further moves before deciding whether to resign the whip.

In Jone, Sir John and Mr Dykes threatened to resign the whip over plans to close a 24hour accident and emergency unit. They backed away from their threat after claiming that Mr Dorrell had assured them that there would be a casualty unit with medical facilities for

emergencies. Sir John took yesterday's action because the Edgware hospital will be given only a

centre with doctors available

only for 13 hours a day. The only way the two MPs say they back down is if the Government gives into their demand for a 24-hour unit. Sir John registered his "disgust" over ministers' action and accused Stephen Dorrell. the Health Secretary, of "fail-

ing and distorting promises".

Three other MPs — Tony Marlow (Northampton N). Terry Dicks (Hayes and Har-lington) and Bill Walker (Tayside N)—have threatened to withdraw their backing in the dispute over Mr Major's "wait and see" policy on a single currency.

Tory backbenchers are increasingly flexing their muscles. On the eve of the Budge Nicholas Winterton, the MP for Macclesfield, secured £8 million of road improvements for his constituency by threatening to vote against the Government.

Despite the uncertainty of further MPs resigning the whip, the omens remain good for the Government surviving until its preferred choice of a General Election in May. The last Labour government went into minority in 1976 and survived 42 defeats and beat off two confidence motions before it fell in March 1979.

Senior Tories said last night that, with no three-line whips planned before the Commons rises for Christmas, the loss of support was not of imminent importance.

Mr Dicks threatened to resign the whip in protest at Mr Major's lack of leadership. In a bitter personal attack, he said: "I don't want to be on a ship like the Titanic where the heimsman can see the ice ahead and simply says: let's wait and see what happens'. The only option is to sack Kenneth Clarke."

Simon Jenkins, page 20 Leading article, page 21



Tim Henman's week's earnings will rise to £500,000 today if he beats Boris Becker and to £990,000 if he wins tomorrow

Henman serves for a £1m pay day

By JOHN GOODBODY AND ALIX RAMSAY

TIM HENMAN could earn almost El million for a week's work if he wins the Compan Grand Slam tennis cup in Munich this weekend. Britain's first world-class male player for 20 years is already assured of doubling his previous earnings this year and will collect £495,400 this week if he defeats Boris Becker in the

semi-finals today.

If he upsets the German, three-times Wimbledon champion, and then wins the final tomorrow, he will earn £990,853.

Henman said yesterday of the prize money: "I am aware of it. Make no bones about it. But what is more important is that I am playing Boris in his home town over five sets and I don't think you can get much better than that. "Maybe to play him at

Wimbledon on Centre Court may be better, but he says that is also his home. I know there is a lot of money at stake but I am pleased with the way I have blocked it out of my mind. I have always said that tennis was more my hobby than my profession."

Before he came to Munich as a second reserve on Sunday, he had earned £262,000 in a meteoric year, during which the 22-year-old reached the singles quarter-finals at Wimbledon.

He received £30,000 just for turning up in Munich. When Americans Pete Sampras and Michael Chang withdrew. Henman came into the draw and promptly earned £60,000 defeating Michael Stich. the 1991 Wimbledon champion. In the quarter-finals on Thursday he beat MaliVai Washington, the 1996 Wimble- a Peugeot 205. He could afford don finalist, in straight sets. a Ferrari but says: "It really This brought his week's earnings to £257,000. isn't me. A Peugeot gets me from A to B." Asked yesterday whether he Henman practised for the semi-final yesterday with

had enjoyed a fairy-tale year, Henman replied: "I don't know whether you could call it that. I just know that I have had a good year. It is almost unbelievable."

However, money has never, been the driving force for the Briton, whose great grand-mother, Ellen Stawell-Brown, was the first woman to serve over-arm at Wimbledon and whose grandfather, Henry Billington, reached the third round of the same tournament three times just after the Second World War.

This year, Henman has restricted himself to buying a flat near the Queen's Club, in West Kensington, and driving

shares in Tokyo and other Far

Eastern markets and stocks

slumped all over Europe as

soon as markets opened. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones

Industrial Average was down

by 140 points at its worst levels

ed after American employ-ment figures showed that US

unemployment rose to 5.4 per

cent from 5.2 per cent in

November, suggesting that

the American economy is

growing modestly enough not

to ignite higher inflation and

therefore provoke a rise in

At midday on Wall Street.

the Dow Jones index had

recovered more than half the

One fund manager com-

mented: "This is edge-of-the-

seat stuff. You can't stop

concentrating for a second

Greenspan warning, page 25

Market report, page 28

with the market like this."

ground to 60 points lower.

However, the panic subsid-

of the day.

interest rates.

pushes **Royal Academy** into red By VALERIE ELLIOTT

Cash crisis

WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Royal Academy last night admitted that it faces "serious financial problems" after it was revealed that it has a deficit of £3.2 million.

Ernst & Young, the accountants who were called in by the academy's solicitors, have been unable to complete the audit for the year ending September 30, 1996. The accountants discovered that £200,000 of staff pension contributions had not been made to the correct fund and £1 million Trust funds for capital expenditure had been used on day-to-day running costs. Its overdraft with the Royal Bank of Scotland is £2.25 million. With deficits of £3.2 million

in the past two years, a meeting next Thursday of the academy's general assembly must approve a rescue plan to satisfy bankers that urgent efforts are being made to put their finances in order.

In a statement issued last night Sir Anthony Tennant, the new chairman of the Royal Academy Trust, said: academy, like so many other art institutions both in Britain and abroad, faces serious financial problems but there is no question of future insolvency for the academy. The appropriate steps are now being taken to ensure its financial security."
Sir Philip Dowson, the

academy's president, said: "I am certain that faced with the realities of our financial position, the academy will support the proposals for the reform of our administration." The scale of the academy's Continued on page 2, col 8

Academy's decline, page 5 Richard Morrison, page 20 Rich pickings, page 48

1 carat diamond rings from Boodles...

David Felgate, his coach, on

the same Olympiahalle court

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Court decision puts City's liquid lunchers on the spot

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE role of alcohol in the modern business lunch came under scrutiny yesterday after a television executive lost his damages claim against a company doctor who advised that his drinking habits barred him from a lucrative job.

Peter Baker who, it was estimated, drank the equivalent of at least four bottles of wine a week and admitted enjoying a bottle a day for six days during a festival, was not the victim of negligence by Dr Georges Kaye, a judge ruled. Mr Baker, 53, of Great

Bookham, Surrey, was due to become head of international sales with NBC Europe on a £45,000 salary when he failed a pre-employment medical. He was ordered yesterday to pay costs thought to be more than £50,000. Mr Baker had claimed that Dr Kaye, the physician for NBC's parent company, GE, had misdiagnosed a drink problem. He told the High Court that

he drank one or two glasses of

wine a day on average. Some but they view anyone who days he might not drink at at but in the week of his interview with NBC he had been for a lunch at which he drank three glasses of wine. At the weekend he might have. half a bottle of wine over dinner, or a beer.

Some of the leading advocates of the alcohol-free lunch are American-owned banks,



Baker: will have to pay

transgresses as requiring medical assistance rather than disciplinary measures. We do not need a company

policy about alcohol consump-tion during the working day." a spokesman for the American investment bank Goldman Sachs said. "It is simply part of our culture. Our people realise that if you consume. alcohol it leaves you unable to

perform adequately."
Trevor Wheeler, of Chase Manhattan, said: "If I do take anybody for lunch I am frankly amazed if they ask for anything to drink but water. It just does not happen. The Eighties are over, you know."

However, a barman at the Grande Marque wine bar on Ludgate Hill said: "We have plenty of champagne out there today, and there will be more tonight. Perhaps the people who do not liquid lunch never came here anyway."

World of festivals, page 3

Shares fall after US bank chief's warning

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON shares suffered their worst fall for four years yesterday. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed \$8.2 points lower at 3,963.0. At its worst point, the FTSE had plunged by 168.5 points. The fall came after Alan

Greenspan, chairman of the American central bank, panicked Wall Street with a warning about the dangers of driving stock markets up into a speculative bubble. He expressed concern about

"irrational exuberance" pushing up prices. Although the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve was talking in general terms, he is too experienced a central banker to have been unaware of the potential impact of his remarks. Investors saw in his com-

ments a warning that he could raise interest rates if surging asset prices threatened control on inflation. Wall Street has jumped by 25 per cent this year, most of that coming since July. Selling immediately hit

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THE TIMES ON MONDAY 15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT BOYS. ARE BACK Rob Hughes watches Manchester **Upton Park** Will England's cricketers come good in Zimbabwe? YOUNG HOPES

on creating the

football stars of

tomorrow

PARRIS

The Columnist

of the Year

24 HOUR

12 WINS OF CHRISTMAS

Festive hampers from Fortnum and Mason

Starts the

arts week

Rifkind draws line at frontier-free Europe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN told its EU parters yesterday that it had no intention of abolishing frontier controls or accepting other controversial proposals contained in a draft for a revamped Maastricht treaty. As Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, spelt out British resistance, France set the scene for a bumpy European summit in Dublin next week by attacking the Irish text as hopelessly weak.

Mr Rifkind, who was in Brussels to prepare for the summit; told the other

14 ministers that Britain viewed the treaty outline as fair but that it was misguided in several areas. The proposal to include an employment chapter committing states to jobcreating policies "would not create a single new job": He also flatly rejected the call to turn Europe into a frontier-free area with common policing by 2001. Britain's island geogra-phy made border controls its best defence against crime and illegal immigration, he said. "It is a fact of EU life that the United Kingdom will retain its frontier controls."

Mr Rifkind attacked a proposal to

give Brussels more control over defence through the Western European Union, and he voiced scepticism over the proclaimed desire to extend majority voting to areas now governed by the veto. Outside the ministers' "conclave", he also took a swipe at Jacques Santer, the president of the EU Commission, for saying Britain's "moment of truth" over Europe was arriving. He said M Santer's words were just "splendid"

Mr Rifkind's sanguine response to the draft treaty, which is due for completion next June, reflected Brittions had so far delivered little of the red-blooded federalism that Germany and its allies had been calling-

for Only on social affairs was as empty. France was appalled to Britain's position isolated from the note that Ireland had come up with rest, and that was already covered by the opt-out negotiated at Maastricht, machinery, including the Commission and the decision-making system. British satisfaction contrasted with

an outburst from Hervé de Charette. the French Minister, who said the draft treaty "reflected the mediocrity of the work done so far" at the intergovernmental conference, the rolling negotiations to rewrite the Maastricht treaty. "Things are not working," he said.

He described the call for common

policing and open internal frontiers

Germany gave the Irish draft modest praise, but officials privately shared the French view that it too timid. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac are expected to issue a strong call for a push to more energetic reform in Dablin.

Clarke could lead 20 protest resignations

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE warning by Kenneth Clarke that up to 20 ministers would join him in a mass resignation from the Government if John Major surrendered to the Euro-sceptics, is no idle threat.

The Chancellor has told his friends that the issue is much more important than Europe and the endless row over the single currency. It is, according to Mr Clarke, the soul of

the Tory party at stake.

The Tory whips, aware of the potentially fatal damage of losing such an outspoken Chancellor so close to an election, have identified the most likely dissidents in the Government ranks. The arm-twisting and subtle flattery has already begun to ensure they stay on side.

But some of them have already made their minds up to join Mr Clarke in exile on the backbenches. Mr Clarke would be the unopposed champion of the Tory left. John Redwood the standard bearer of the right. Mr Major would be uncomfortably sandvicted in the middle.

The spotlight would fail first on the Cabinet ministers. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, is the most obvious

uspect. Mr Gummer, one of the longest serving ministers, would be in a difficult dilemma. A committed European. he is also a close personal friend of the Prime Minister. "He would be toni between his loyalty to John Major and his passionate belief in the single currency. Europe might win," said one leading left-wing Tory MP last night. Sir

George Young, the Transport Secretary, who was sacked and resurrected by Margaret Thatcher, would also be targeted by the Chancellor's supporters. A question mark would also hang over William Waldegrave, the Chief Secre-tary to the Treasury, who has a high regard for Mr Carkle.

A clutch of middle-ranking ministers could also follow the Chancellor. Most Tory MPs expect Ian Taylor, the Trade and Industry minister and MP for Esher, to be at the head of the procession.

Robin Squire, the junior education minister, and David Curry, the deputy to Mr Gummer, are also thought to be highly likely to go. Other high-profile ministers who their colleagues expect to consider their position include Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Aid minister. Lady Chalker, who is known to be unhappy at the rhetoric on Europe and the policy of non-cooperation in the beef war. She is still sore

over her failure to secure a

Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, is also known for his pro-European views. But his departure from the Government would be particularly damaging as he is a former Tory Party chairman. Anthony Nelson, a junior Treasury minister, might also follow his boss. Doubts also persist about Nicholas Soames, the Armed forces clashed with Baroness Thatcher over her views on Germany, is also at the centre of speculation, although his military background and training in loyalty mean he would probably resist the pressure to quit.

Mr Clarke, in an interview yesterday with his local newspaper the Nottingham Evening Post, made clear his desire to lead the Tory party. But he stressed that he would not challenge John Major.

Universities

will warn

students of

£1,000 fees

By David Charter

MANY university prosp-

ectuses are to carry warnings

that applicants face course

fees of up to £1,000 after vice-

chancellors agreed to drop

their threat of a £300 entry

levy.
The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said that a "substantial" num-

ber of universities would alert

applicants for 1998 places that

fees were possible. Gareth Roberts, the committee's chairman, said that £1,000 would be a realistic charge.

but not everyone would have

to pay the full amount. The

wording of the warning has

yet to be agreed, but it is

unlikely to state the exact sum

Mr Roberts said: "It could

not be a figure that was so

high that it put students off, or

a sum that was too low.

suspect you are talking of a figure of around the £1,000

mark, with a safety net where

I suspect that at least 50 per

cent of the students would not

have to pay the full sum." He

said reductions were likely to

be worked out on the same

basis used by local authorities

to assess a student's wealth

Mr Roberts welcomed the extra £100 million found for

universities in the Budget, but

said that losses through tax

charges and other changes

reduced the gain to £21 mil-lion. The £300 entry fee was

dropped not because of the

Budget, but because of legal advice that students had not

The committee appealed for

all universities to wait until

the publication of Sir Ron

Dearing's report on higher

education funding next sum-mer before deciding whether

U Vice-chancellors' cash shor-

tage has led to a breakdown in pay talks with all staff, who

rejected their offer of 1.5 per

cent and staged a one-day

strike last month. Mr Roberts

said that, if emergency pay talks on Thursday failed, it

would mean an end to nat-

ional pay bargaining.

been given fair notice.

to charge fees.

when calculating grants.

payable.

Leading article, page 21



John Gummer, left, and Sir George Young: both might join the Chancellor on the backbenches

Hints from the political wives are not a patch on Mrs Clarke

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

GILLIAN CLARKE, wife of the Chancellor, is joining the trend for politicians' wives to reveal home-loving glimpses of life behind the scenes. She is to go on television to tell all about her love for quiltmaking.
For the first programme in

Channel Four series on hobbies, Collectors Lot, to be ened next month, Mrs Clarke has been filmed at the American Museum in Bath. She will be seen showing her favourite quilts, giving detailed tips on how best to practise her art, and recommending it as the perfect

antidote to the stresses of, of the women's magazine You sit in a comfy chair and just sew," she says. "The

rhythm calms you down, lowers the pulse rate, lowers the blood pressure, puts you back on an even keel with the world after what may have been a rather frustrating and difficult day."
Hillary Clinton led the

trend with a declaration of a hitherto unimagined enthusiasm for home-baking. Norma Major had a high-profile tour to promote her book about Chequers, and gave a TV interview on her home concerns. Cherie Booth, wife of Tony Blair, was a guest editor

Mrs Clarke says that her hobby began 20 years ago: "I had an ever-increasing pile of dress-making leftovers, and I wanted to do something with

them. One of the joys of old quilts is the way they're at treasure house of old fabrics. You can see all sorts of things — most likely the household's clothes making leftovers." The Chancellor himself pre-

fers to relax in the pub or the curry house. Mrs Clarka adds: "I haven't yet discovered a fellow quilter among the Cabinet wives. I may do so. I shall probably have dozens of letters now.

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Decision today on museum charges

The trustees of the British Museum will meet today to decide whether to introduce admission charges in the light of a damning report on the museum's internal practices.

The meeting of the trustees, who include Sir David Attenborough, the broadcaster and naturalist, and the Duke of Gloucester, will be attended by Dr Robert Anderson, the museum's director, who has been stepping up his opposition to the idea of admission fees in recent weeks. The trustees have been studying a report by Andrew Edwards, a former Treasury deputy secretary, which said the museum was riddled with inefficiency. He proposed numerous job cuts and a £5 entrance fee to raise £8 million a year.

Murder victim's fiancée ill

The fiance of Lee Harvey, 25, who was stabled to death after the couple were pursued by another car in the county of Hereford and Worcester last weekend, has been admitted to hospital after collapsing earlier this week. Neither doctors nor police would disclose the nature of Tracie Andrews's illness last night but Mr Harvey's family said she had been

Eighth food poison death

An eighth pensioner died at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary yesterday in Scotland's *E. coli 0157* lood poisoning outbreak. The elderly man was from the Bonnybridge area. Numbers affected by the outbreak have risen to 370, with 194 people confirmed as being infected with the E-coli bacteria. Fifty-seven are in hospital and 25 adults and six children are scriously ill. adults and six children are seriously ill.

Schools' paedophile warning

A dossier, including a photograph, of a convicted paedophile who has been released from Jail has been sent to 140 schools in South Wales. Police sent personal details of Fabio Lowrie. 42, to the director of education in Cardiff advising him to alert headteachers in schools in the area. A similar pilot scheme is under way in Portsmouth in which information about convicted paedophiles is sent to head teachers.

Pupil dies of meningitis

A 16-year-old boy from Sale Grammar School in Greater Manchester died of meningitis and a 15-year-old girl at the school is seriously ill with the disease. Both contracted meningococcal septicaemia, the severest form. As health officials sought to reassure parents, a sixth meningitis case was confirmed in a male student at University College, Cardiff.

Prison move for McAliskey

The pregnant daughter of former nationalist MP Bernadette. McAliskey has been moved to Holloway prison after undergoing a hospital scan. Roisin McAliskey, 25, complained of stomach pains at the all-male Belmarsh prison where she is facing extradition. A Prison Service spokesman said antenatal care was more readily available at Holloway.

Bookies bet on lottery rival

Bookmakers are to launch a pre-Christmas rival to the National Lottery. The game will feature a daily draw and punters will make bets on the numbers they think will come up. Unlike the lottery, which has a minimum El stake, bets as low as 10p will be allowed and players will be able to bet on single numbers or on several.

Academy

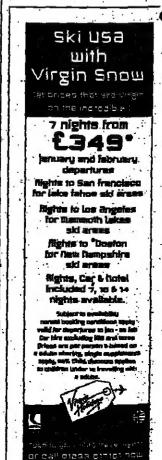
Continued from page 1 financial incompetence was set

out last week in an internal memorandum from David Gordon, the newly-appointed secre-tary, to members of the academy's governing council and to its trustees, including the Prince of Wales, who is Trust president.

The rescue plan includes a proposal to remove control from the 12-man council of academicians and set up a new group which would include representatives from all sections of the academy, including trustees

and staff. They also wish to boost the income for the academy and have upset some of the old-guard by proposing the removal of the academicians' private assembly rooms to create more space and to convert part of the recently built Sackler gallery

into a café. The academy is self-financing and receives no grants from the taxpayer. It is planning to expand its gallery space and hopes to win lottery funds for the takeover of the premises of the nearby Museum of Mankind which is to be rehoused by the British Museum.



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Mar a aug'r CONTRA SMI Boundary Post

Name Donaghan Parties gger has broat

Drink fortifies spirit in world of TV festivals

PETER BAKER was known to enjoy a drink but had not acquired a reputation for excess in the world of television sales, where "hunches without alcohol are inconceivable".

Tormer colleagues yester-fay voiced support for the executive after he lost his claim for damages against a company doctor, who said hat his drinking habits made him unsuitable for a lucrative

Mr Baker, 53, had spent 22 years in the business and regularly visited film and television festivals at a time when the hospitality was more lavish than today. His job was to sell television programmes to foreign broadcasters and, in an intensely competitive field, it was accepted that entertaining potential buyers was an

integral part of his role.

"There is a lot of socialising," said Philip Jones, who was at the 1991 festival in Monte Carlo where Mr Baker admitted having a bottle of wine each day "Of course, you could just sit down over a cup of tea, but it is very difficult trying to sell to someone who thas got their drinking boots on. You sometimes can't back away from that."

tor of CTE Carlton, said: "Peter Baker did not stand out

17 Mrs Clarke

anyone else. He did not have a reputation as a big drinker. I fully understand why he has brought this case. People were delighted when he got the job at NBC and then mystified when he didn't take it up."

Mr Jones, whose portfolio includes Inspector Morse, said the culture had changed in recent years. Up to 150 distributors might be competing for sales at each festival and a bottle of Perrier was increasingly as popular as a fine claret. "It is a rarefied atmosphere and you are on expenses in glamorous places, but you have to be on your toes 24 hours a day. It is hard work," Mr Jones said.

Stephen Leahy, chairman of Action Times, one of Europe's largest entertainment and felevision production companies. is renowned for throwing the best opening-night parties at Cannes. He said: "Lunches without alcohol are inconceivable. It is a sign of hospitality. We normally budget for a bottle of wine a head, then

wait and see. "I would have thought a bottle a day at Monte Carlo was quite modest when you remember that you start at llam and might go on until three the next morning."

Jane Millichip, who reports



Peter Baker, left, had alleged negligence by Dr GeorgesKaye, who said his drinking made him unsuitable for a job

conclusion as Dr Kaye, a vastly experienced physician. Also, Mr Baker had been By ADRIAN LEE evasive about his drinking.

Doctors will be open to the post with NBC Europe in , challenge from people undergoing company medicals, de-spite Mr Baker's defeat. The judge ruled that the case established a new principle: the doctor, although employed

reasonable medical opinion

would have reached the same

by the company, also had a responsibility to the patient. Dr Kaye, who is based in Harley Street, was in France on company business but was relieved to have been been vindicated, his solicitor said.

TV firm's £8,000 drinks bill £8,000 spent on drinks. Most

went on alcohol. "It was the THE company that refused to employ Peter Baker because he had an alleged drink problem spent thousands of highlight of the week," one partygoer said. "There were certainly some very drunk people there." The party went pounds on alcohol recently on until 3.30am. "It was still in when it threw a huge party in full swing but that was when a French château. NBC celebrated its seventi-

the château closed." Many of those at the party attended festival events the eth anniversary with a celebration in Cannes, on the penultimate night of the annext day for their companies. The High Court was told that nual October television festi-NBC's American parent company, General Electric Tech-nical Services, frowned on val. The total bill for the evening came to £27,000, with

alcohol. Those who drank at lunchtime and refused to change their habits were eased out of the company. Mr Baker admitted drinking a bottle of wine a day at a

festival in Monte Carlo, shortly before he underwent a preemployment medical. A former medical director of the company told the court that it had a "strict policy on alco-hol" because it was estimated that drinking by executives cost millions of dollars a year

Guard on Lawrence son after kidnap bid

By JOANNA BALE

THE son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence was escorted to school yesterday by detectives hunting a mystery couple who attempted to abduct him from his home.

Mr Lawrence's widow. Frances, has told police that a man and a woman claiming to be from the social services came to the house and asked for Lucien Lawrence, nine. They tried to persuade her to let them take him away for a medical examination, and referred to his GP by name.

At the Lawrence family home yesterday in Ealing, west London, Detective In-spector Alan Gale said: "Police are investigating an allegation of attempted abduction of Mrs Lawrence's son from this address on Wednesday afternoon. She was suspicious and refused access."

The man was aged about 40, 5ft Ilin, with short brown heir and black-rimmed glasses, and wore a beige mackintosh. The woman was about 28, black, 5ft 6in, with short. black, bobbed hair, and wore

a black jacket and black shirt. Police said that there was no evidence of any link with a stalker who troubled Mrs Lawrence earlier this year. Officers are investigating any links with similar attempts to lure children in the west London area.

Mr Lawrence was stabber last December outside St George's school, Maida Vale. A boy of 16 was held for life.

Custody death verdict prompts training call

A CORONER yesterday called for far-reaching re-forms to police training after a jury returned a verdict of accidental death on a black burglary suspect whose death in police custody sparked a riot in Brixton a year ago,

The family of Wayne Doug-las, 25, stormed out of Southwark Crown Court as the foreman delivered the 8-1 majority verdict. Relatives claim that Mr Douglas, an unemployed former postman, was suffocated by police, who forced him to lie face-down with his hands cuffed behind his back in Brixton during and after his arrest last December.

The police, however, insisted that Mr Douglas had repeatedly lunged at them with two knives after he was stopped because he fitted the description of a burglar who had stolen a couple's credit cards and cash at knifepoint minutes earlier.

The jury took four hours 20

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

Douglas, of Sydenham, southeast London, had died of heart failure due to stress, exhaustion and positional asphyxia. The Southwark Coroner, Sir

Montague Levine, said that he was "appalled" to learn that Metropolitan Folice officers received just a few minutes' training on the form of as-physia caused by suspects being held face down when subdued with their hands handcuffed behind them. His recommendations included more research into the problems of restraining suspects, guidelines for all officers on the risks of positional asphyx-ia where suspects are exhaust-ed and stressed, refresher courses and a booklet to be issued to all police officers on the symptoms.

After the three-week hearing. Mr Douglas's brother Al-bert appealed for calm. He said the family were disappointed and angry with the verdict. "I have always been convinced that my brother

Wayne Douglas: verdict of accidental death

was suffocated in Brixton

police station." The family's solicitor, Louise Christian, said they would seek a judicial review. "The coroner made errors of law in the way he summed up. We sought a verdict of unlawful killing. There are two types of unlawful killing: gross criminal negligence in not getting Mr Douglas medical treatment or asking if he was all right; and unlawful force, cause he was put on his

resident said. "I remember he

used to be away all the time on

business, often to America. But he didn't strike me as a big

Mr Baker began his tele-

vision career in 1969 with

Warner Brothers and had also

worked for Production Asso-

ciates, Global Television and

Talbot Television. After losing

1991 he set up his own distri-

bution company, Doljac. Mr Baker had claimed that

Dr Georges Kaye, the physi-cian for NBC's parent com-

pany, GE, had mistiagnosed a drink problem. But a High Court judge ruled yesterday that he was not the victim of

Deputy Judge Robert Owen.

negligence by Dr Kaye.

drinker. He's a nice chap."

front unnecessarily.
The coroner said the jury had to find both things took place when in fact the jury had to find only one."
Police claimed Mr Douglas

violently resisted arrest when confronted, He was hit with police batons to make him drop a kitchen knife, then placed face down in a playground before being taken to the police station, where he was again held face-down. Witnesses told the inquest they saw police raining blows on him with batons. But two postmortem examinations found no evidence of injuries that would have contributed to his

After Mr Douglas was seen on the floor with his eyes bulging, his jaw locked and mucus coming from his mouth, officers tried to resuscitate him. A post-mortem examination by Dr Frederick Patel concluded he died from hypertensive heart disease. Professor Bernard Knight concluded positional asphyxia was the cause and found no evidence of heart disease.

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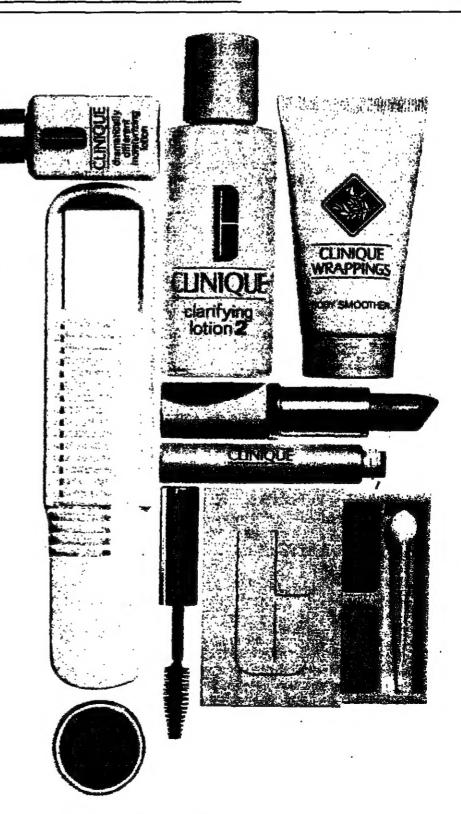
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throat slashed

WOMAN was slashed arross the throat as she was out jogging in what police described as a motiveless and random attack. Mary Robinson, 41, a moth-

er of four, was running through Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire with a friend on Wednesday evening when she was attacked. She had 19 sutches in her throat and face after being cut with a long-bladed knife.

Mrs Robinson said last night she was convinced her assailant wanted to kill her. "Ail he wanted to do was to cut somebody's throat. He is not going to be happy with that. I think he will do it again."

Detective Inspector Neville Pinkney of Thames Valley Police said: This was an entirely motiveless attack. We have ruled out sex and robbery. It was gratuitous vioience and for everyone's sake
we need to carch this man as soon as possible." They were treating the case as attempted murder. The attacker was 5ft 9in tall, of stocky build and

Jogger has | Murder charge PC 'had no choice'

BY TIM JONES

A POLICE officer accused of murdering an unarmed man told an Old Bailey jury yester-day that he had no choice but

to fire his gun because he believed his life was in danger.

PC Patrick Hodgson, 49, me I felt extremely said he was shaking when he shot and killed David Ewin as he tried to drive off in a Toyota car that had been boxed in by police and other vehicles near Hammersmith Bridge in west London.

The court was told that PC Hodgson, a specialist firearms officer, had been a member of the crew of a Metropolitan Police armed response vehicle when the incident occurred in February last year. PC Hodgson told the court he thought that Mr Ewin, 38, a suspected car thief, may have carried out an armed robbery when he saw him sprinting out of an .

off-licence. He said Mr Ewin ignored his warnings to stop and ran into the car. "I drew my gun and shouted 'Armed police' to stop him escaping and at the same time to defend myself

from any possible threat from inside the car.
While I hadn't seen him carrying a weapon, once in the

vulnerable." He said Mr Ewin. of Rochampton, southwest London, continued to shunt the vehicle backwards and forwards as he tried to escape. "I was totally shocked because with that one exception people had always complied with my demands when I pointed a gun at them." It was, he said, the only time he had fired a gun on operational duty, since

arms instructor. PC Hodgson, who denies murder, told Nicholas Purnell QC, for the defence There was no other option, nothing else I could have done. I was never out of danger ... I tried all the conventional methods but firing the gun was the last

The case continues.

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Airlines challenge new restrictions on aircraft noise

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINES yesterday won High Court approval for a legal challenge to government proposals for a clampdown on aircraft noise.

Mr Justice Popplewell gave permission for lata, the International Air Transport Association, to seek a judicial review of tighter noise restrictions on aircraft taking off from Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.

The regulations were due to come into force on January 1 but will be postponed pending the case, expected early in the new year. Environmental and residents' groups were an-gered by the postponement. Dermot Cox, chairman of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, said: "It is quite despicable that the airlines are not only refusing to accept that improvements have to be made the environment but are able to postpone the Govern-

"They will learn eventually that they have to work with the

front them at every turn. Whatever happens, the Goverrument must stand up to their bullying tactics."

The Transport Department planned to cut the maximum permitted noise by three decibels during the day and by two at night. Scientists said that this would have a significant impact on the amount of noise aircraft were permitted to make, and would encourage airlines to invest in quieter

lata will argue that the new limits are unlawful, "not oper-ationally achievable and will have a severe impact on the long-haul operations of major carriers". It said that hundreds of older aircraft would be harred and newer jets would have to reduce their load of fuel, cargo or passen-gers to conform to the

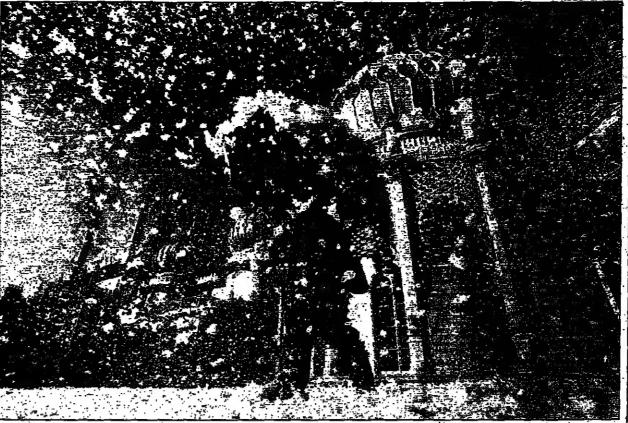
regulations.
The Government signed an international agreement in

communities rather than con-use older aircraft (known as chapter two jets) until 2002," an lata spokesman said. "The British Government, however, introduced these new rules without consultation and many of our members, who are gradually phasing out these aircraft, are faced with having to stop flying to London from the beginning of

> lata, which represents 254
> airlines carrying 95 per cent of
> the world's international
> scheduled traffic, also wants to overturn a requirement for aircraft to reach a minimum height of 1,000ft at a given distance from take-off. The Department of Trans-

next month."

port is considering equally tight noise constraints on aircraft as they land. Complaints about aircraft noise at Heathrow are falling despite a sharp increase in the number of flights. But they are rising fast at Gatwick, where BA has switched hundreds of addi-



مكذا بن الاصل

AGAINST all the weather forecasts, a blizzard lays a blanket of snow deep and crisp and even on the grounds of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. Even more remarkably, it does it every evening at 4 o'clock on the dot for an hour because, tired of waiting for the vagaries of the English winter to produce a traditional white Christmas, the town's council has turned to technology to whip up the

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White Christmas falls on the dot

foam and produced by machines hung in four trees in the grounds of the pavilion, once the Prince Regent's

sung and pony-trap rides are offered around the lawns against a backdrop of 40,000 fairy lights. Amanda Shepherd, a spokeswoman for Brighton council, said: "It creates a traditional image of what we imagine Christmas to be like." The snow, which melts away each night. will fall until Christmas Eve when the Shepherd said: "It is then up to nature if it wants to follow our lead."

Millennium exhibition cost rises by £200m

Academ Sorry P financia

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich will cost £700 million, £200 million more than the most recent official estimate, according to its organisers. Their business plan for the event will be presented to the Millennium Commission next week.

The commission will decide whether the plan is acceptable or if the exhibition, which has had a battle to raise the necessary private backing should be scrapped.

The commission will not be asked to increase its £200 million contribution, and private sponsorship is expected to stay at E150 million. Instead, Mil-lennium Central, the operat-ing company, believes the ex-tra cash will come from merchandising, media fees and gate receipts. It is also hoped that more sponsorship will be raised for touring events.

However, the organisers will make it clear that both the

Government and Opposition must be prepared to guarantee borrowings for such a huge project in order for work to begin early next year.

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Prince urged to help boost communities

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Prince of Wales is being urged to sound a "clarion call" to win greater public recognition of the role of local community enterprise in creating a happier, healthier and more

The Prince met a delegation from Business in the Community in Liverpool yesterday. He was told that government, local authorities. industry and commerce, and seats of learning — particular-ly schools for business, medicine and architecture -

needed to be made aware of the benefits of involving people who had previously felt excluded from decisions affecting their lives. The Prince was reminded of his own recently stated wish to

see a spiritual as well as a physical dimension to the coming milientium celebrations. Partnerships between business and local communi nes required a moral as well as a financial commitment. and in the process encouraged new attitudes to people's du-ties and responsibilities to their fellow citizens.

The delegation, led by Peter Davis, chief executive of the Prudential Corporation, told the Prince that existing public funding structures were quite inappropriate in meeting com-

The Rev Andrew Mawson, chief executive of the Bromleyby-Bow Centre in east London, cited a recent survey among community groups which found that only ! per cent believed the present funding mechanisms were satisfactory. Money from the Treasury went to local author-

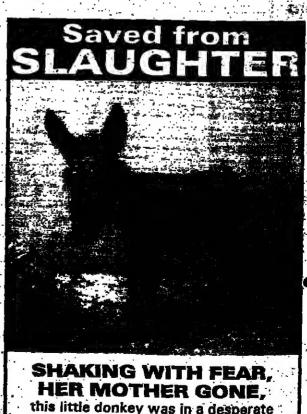
social services departments and there was widespread The Prince agreed that the Treasury was a problem

ity housing, education and



and suggested also that the National Audit Office was a dampener on funds being spent more imaginatively. He urged delegates to take the initiative in showing how money was wasted. The awards have been spon-

sored by The Times since their inception in 1986. Reports on some of the entries for the 1996 Community Enterprise Awards will appear in The Times shortly



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· Academy paints a sorry picture of financial decline

By Russell Jenkins and Isabel Carlisle

THE Royal Academy, which was revealed yesterday as being £3 million in debt, has been plagued with financial problems in recent years and riven by rivalries between traditionalists and modern-isers, artists and architects. Next month Trevor Clark, its former bursar, is to appear at Southwark Crown Court to answer theft charges amounting to £389,000 of the acade-

It has been dismissed by opponents as an irrelevant anachronism for most of this century, and its Summer Exhi-bition is derided by art critics. All this is a far cry from the spirit of 1768, when a group of artists championed by Benjamin West sought the support of George III for the establish-ment of a "well-regulated school or academy of design and an annual exhibition". It was founded with a membership of up to 40 academicians, men of fair moral characters, of high reputation in their

Sir Joshua Reynolds was the first president and held office until his death in 1792. He laid down the concept of the academy as a body of professional men "to direct the student" and form a "repository for the

The first home for the academy's schools and exhibitions was in Pall Mall. They transferred to Somerset Palace in 1780, then shared premises with the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square for some years before moving to Burlington House, in Piccadilly, in 1867.

tioned until the last decades of last century, when groups such as the New English Art Club and the London Group were formed to challenge what they believed was the academy's stultifying effect on inno-

vation and creativity. This century the academy has lost ground to the Arts Council and the Tate Gallery. Its schools, whose students once included Turner, Constable and Millais, have been compared unfavourably with more go-ahead establishments, such as Goldsmiths', produced Damien

It is the oldest fine arts institution in Great Britain and its elderly membership is made up of the most distinguished artists and architects in the country. Originally run by artists for artists alone, the

great examples of the Art*. ernment funding. It has al-The first home for the acade ways depended for a large part of its income on a cut of the profits of the annual exhibition first held in 1769 and now known as the Summer Exhibition. The academy deducts a 30 per cent commission on works sold and, in the

past few years, has made an annual surplus of £200,000. The first temporary loan exhibition was held in January 1870. The problem in recent years has been to present an appealing yearround programme of exhibi-tions while still making an overall profit.

Sponsorship to underwrite exhibition expenses has been increasingly hard to find and several shows were nearly cancelled recently. In August the curators invited by the academy to mount the Lord Leighton exhibition had to come up with £150,000 themselves to prevent its cancel-

A survey of the academy's finances for 1991-94, published in the February issue of The Art Newspaper, showed that eight shows brought in a profit after reimbursing the sponsor, two broke even and 13 resulted



The Royal Academy and its first president, Sir Joshua Reynolds, who wanted it to be "a repository for the great examples of the Art"

which resulted in a deficit of

£613,248. Africa: The Art of a Continent, held last autumn, was a particularly ambitious show that cost £1.5 million to mount and needed 500,000 visitors to break even. It was a critical success but a financial failure. as only 250,280 people came to

This autumn a huge gap was left in the exhibition programme by the late cancel-lation of an exhibition of 20thcentury art that was to have filled three other London galleries as well. The current

from Edinburgh to plug the

Burlington House was remodelled in the 18th century by the third Lord Burlington. The original rooms, known as the Private Rooms, display a selection of the works from the academy's collection.

stairs are used for the Sum-Sackler, where it can be seen mer Exhibition. Upstairs the Jill and Arthur M. Sackler four days a week Galleries, remodelled in 1991.

are used for temporary exhibi-

tions. The academy's most

prized possession. Michelan-

gelo's The Virgin and Child

with the Infant St John, is on

A War Allinon, or Deputation management

The schools, where 60 postgraduate students work, are behind the scenes. The lifeclass room has recently been refurbished. There is also a library housing documents on the history of art and a print

Surrounded by riches, staff await news of their fate

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

STAFF at the Royal Academy terday near one of Britain's most valuable permanent

sculpture Madonna and Child with the Infant St John is worth at least £50 million. Visitors carried evening newspapers reporting a financial crisis. The glumpsed headlines were the first real news of any problem for some of the 196 employees at the Academy's grand buildings in Piccadilly. As crowds of school parties and tourists jostled their way through three exhibitions, the staff were muted and fretful. Many were initially astonished when told of the Academy's financial plight, and too fearful to comment at length. Those who did were angry that they had not been in-

"I think most of us had an inkling there were financial

formed directly.



with Infant St. John

being asked to work extra days and extra shifts," one ticket collector said. "It is general knowledge that money is short here and belts are being tightened, but these figures are astronomical.

Another said: "The least we can hope for now is that our In one section of an upstairs

entrance hall, raffle tickets are sold to raise funds. In three months, ticket sales have gathered about £20,000. There are three paying exhi-

bitions: Living Bridges, a dis-play of models and designs for a new inhabited bridge in London: Alberto Giacometti. a display of works by the Swiss sculptor and painter; and artist's drawings from the Thaw Collection. Tickets cost £5 for each exhibition, al though a package ticket is £9.

Many visitors yesterday said they would be prepared to pay a higher entrance fee. ossi Mordal, from Norv who visits every year, said: "It is a major attraction for tourists. I see no reason why they cannot up the prices to help them — people think nothing of paying four times as much for a night at the theatre or a concert."

Diane Radleigh from Ludlow, Shropshire, hoped that the Academy would not be "horribly commercialised". She said: "I can just see it the Royal Academy Hotel. It would be a classic symbol of national decline if we cannot keep this lovely institution



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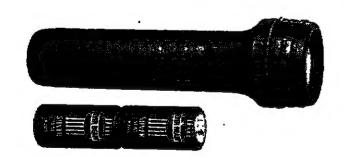


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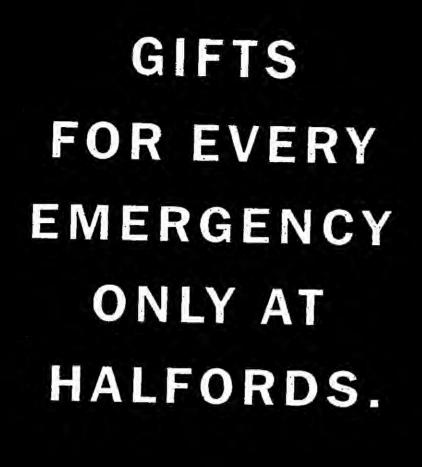


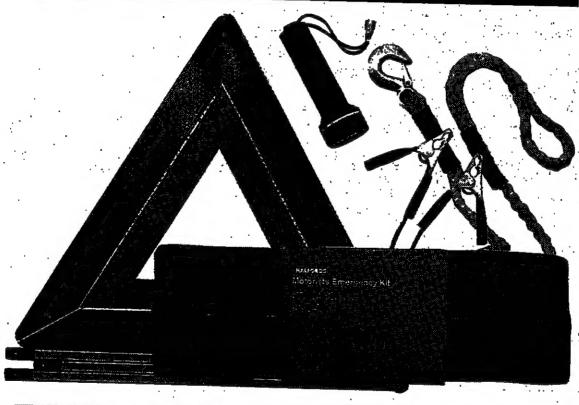
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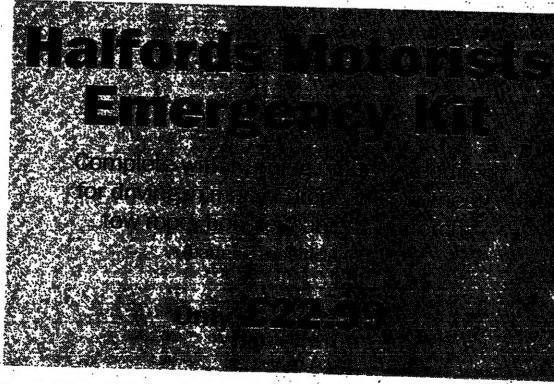
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SCENTS WONDI

Howard considers fresh inquiry on Hillsborough

THE Home Secretary has said he will consider carefully a request for a fresh inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster in the light of concerns raised by a television drama-documentary screened on Thursday.

Michael Howard was handed a letter asking for a new inquiry by Kathy Ellis of Carlisle, the daughter of one of the victims, yesterday. The Home Secretary told her: "I will look at this letter and any other communication I receive and I will consider it very

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carefully."
Richard Wells, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire
Police, which took most of the
blame for the tragedy in which
96 fans died, yesterday found imself in an argument with e families of the victims and their supporters. Mr Wells had said that on his first viewing of the Granada TV programme he saw "nothing new". He promised, however: We will replay the film and I give a solemn undertaking that if there is new material we will pursue it."

The Hillsborough Family Support Group said that the

dence supporting its case. Trevor Hicks, the group's chairman, who lost his daughters Sarah and Vicky in the disaster and whose marriage has since broken up, said it was enough for a jury to alter the inquest verdict of acciden-

The film touched on missing videotapes of crowd scenes at the ground and witness statements being changed. It also highlighted the families' claim that a security camera covering the pens where the fans were crushed as the crowd surged was working, contrary to statements at the time.

The inquest was told that the camera was defective, preventing police in the stadium control room seeing that the pens were full as they decided to open the gates to relieve pressure from outside.

Roger Houldsworth, a technician who installed and maintained the camera at the Sheffield Wednesday ground, has signed an affidavit saying that the camera was functioning. Mr Hicks said: "If Mr Houldsworth is right, other people must be wrong. We are calling on the Home Secretary

> too'. It is now time to move on." He said that his force had reservations about the programme when they met its makers a years ago and declined to assist them. "We were concerned about Jimmy McGovern's ability to be objective about a subject on which he confesses to deeply

to investigate. We would like a

criminal investigation into

perjury, collusion and possi-bly perverting the course of

Jimmy McGovern, the writ-

dicts what the police have

the Keystone Kops and all the

Chief Constable can say is

Dr Stefan Popper, the coro-

quests, said the accidental

death verdicts returned on

those who died did not close

tions, but he believed a new

inquest would be futile because of the limitations on

Mr Wells, who became

Chief Constable of South Yorkshire in 1990, said: "My

approach has always been

that this was an avoidable dis-

aster. The South Yorkshire

Police have stood up since I

took command and acknowl-

edged our part in the tragedy. I have repeatedly said sorry.

but we want other parties to

say. Yes we are part of this

coroners' courts.

ner who conducted the in-

there is nothing new."

"Claims about missing video tapes and changed statements were all issues that were known about and dealt with in an above-board fash-



In which Pooh and Piglet find a fortune

Piglet going Woozle hunting fetched a record £80.500, well in excess of the estimated £10,000-£15,000, at Christie's in London yesterday. Four E.H. Shepard illustrations of the A. A. Milne characters, drawn for the 1926

£216,200. Each had been estimated to make between £8,000 and £12,000. The prices overshadowed Beatrix Potter, whose Hunca Munca and Peter Rabbit fetched £5,750 (estimate £2,000-£4,000).

Lawyers told to inform on bad-risk clients

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS have a duty to warn mortgage companies if clients who are would-be borrowers are unlikely to be able to meet their payments, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The test case affects the large majority of residential mortgage transactions, in which a solicitor acts on behalf of both the borrower and the lender. The judgment means that lawyers cannot be bound by confidentiality if they discover that the potential borrower is a bad risk.

The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which will have to meet the costs of the case, is expected to appeal because more than 1,000 similar cases are pending, involving trans-actions worth millions of

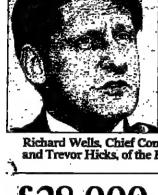
The case concerned a loan of £91,000, granted in 1989 by the National Home Loans Cor-poration, to homeowners in Bletchley, Buckinghamshire. The owners had obtained a £58,500 mortgage in 1986 from the Halifax Building Society and had remortgaged the property for E7I,000 with the Tamar Mortgage Company Number One in 1988.

They fell £4,000 behind with their repayments, but did not disclose this when they obtained a second remortgage from the National Home Loans Corporation. Their solicitors throughout were Giffen Couch and Archer, of Leighton Buzzard, which also acted for the corporation. Felicity Butler, the solicitors' conveyancing executive, knew that the owners had fallen behind with repayments and had been threatened with eviction, but told the court that she assumed the mortgage company had made its own inquiries and was aware of the arrears. She believed that the corporation "was the type of lender that would lend to borrowers who would be considered more risky . . . I would not have thought the fact that the borrowers were in arrears would have been of any con-

The judge, Graeme Hamilton, QC, disagreed. "The solicitor does not necessarily know whether any - and, if so, what - investigations have been carried out," he said. "In this case the defendant's solicitor did not know. It follows this important piece of infor-mation should have been passed on."

The owners defaulted on payments, and, because house prices fell shortly afterwards, the corporation was unable to recover all its losses. The judge awarded £80,000 damages against the solicitors. saying that the loss was caused by the corporation "embarking upon a course of action upon which it would not have embarked had it been given the correct information. The duty in this case is to supply information."

Weekend Money, page 29



Richard Wells, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire, and Trevor Hicks, of the Hillsborough family group

£28,000 award over racial discrimination upheld

HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Prison Service has lost an attempt to reduce damages of £28,000 awarded to a black employee over racial discrimination. An employment appeal tribunal upheld the level of damages won by Claude Johnson, a prison auxiliary officer, after finding it was the worst case its members had

In its ruling, published yesterday, the appeal tribunal said that while the award to Mr Johnson, 27, announced 'jst year, was "larger than any other reported award for injury to feelings", it was appro-

This was a campaign of discrimination over a period in excess of 18 months involving exposure to humiliation. ostracism, ridicule and contempt at the respondent's [Mr Johnson's place of work."

Mr Johnson, who works at Brixton jail, was ostracised by other employees there after complaining about a black prisoner being attacked by a number of officers. He was no longer asked to play cricket with colleagues or join them for a drink. After complaining

to the governor about his treatment, for six months he was given less overtime than white colleagues

An officer told Mr Johnson, who was born in Britain, to "sing because all you guys can sing". On another occasion he was told to run with some bags because "all you guys are

Mr Johnson, who has been employed by the Prison Service since 1989 and earns E12,000 a year, had been awarded £20,000 for injury to his feelings plus £7,500 aggravated damages and a further







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Government on brink of ordering new cattle cull

By Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent

of older cattle is expected next week, raising hopes of a relaxation of the European Union ban on British beef.

Plans for the cull were discussed with a delegation from the European Parliament, which visited Britain to assess the effectiveness of measures to protect public health against BSE.

Lord Plumb, leader of the Tory MEPs, hinted strongly that an announcement was imminent after the visit ended yesterday. "I am hoping that in a matter of days we should be getting some announcement on this." he said.

Philip Whitehead, Labour MEP for Staffordshire and Derby, said that a lifting of the beef ban would be much more probable" if the Government gave the go-ahead for the

The European Parliament delegation inspected abattoirs and rendering plants. They met Roger Freeman, the Cabinet minister in charge of co-ordinating BSE policy, Ministry of Agriculture officials. scientists, farmers' leaders and consumer groups.

The slaughter of up to 147,000 cattle identified as being most at risk of develop-



Plumb: hoping for an

APPROVAL for a selective cull ing BSE was agreed at the EU summit in Florence last June but the Government put the cull on hold in September, voicing doubts about its scientific justification. .

Some 1.2 million cattle have been incinerated under a sepa-rate scheme to keep those more than 30 months old out of the food chain. This was aimed at restoring consumer confidence rather than speeding the eradication of BSE. Cattle under 30 months old are regarded as the least likely to have eaten the infected meal

thought to have caused BSE.

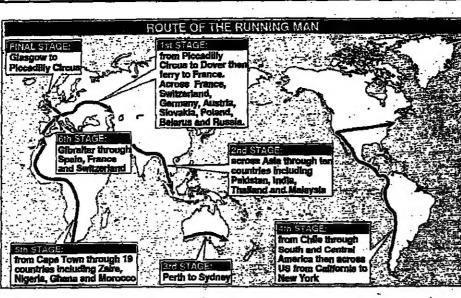
The selective cull would involve older cattle, mainly dairy cows, reared alongside animals that have already died of BSE and likely to have eaten the same feed.

Douglas Hogg, the Agricul-ture Minister, still disputes the scientific grounds for the selective cull but is understood to have been persuaded by the political arguments. Lord Plumb said he believed

the selective cull should involve about 100,000 animals. less than the original number because some would already have been killed under the over-30-months scheme, lan Gardiner, policy director of the National Farmers' Union, said: "A cull of close to 100,000 animals would be about right, and we want the the Government to get on with it."

Compensation for farmers could top £100 million. The cost per cow would be high because many animals would still have years of milking and calving left in them.

The European Parliament delegation was impressed by the BSE safeguards in place. Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf, a German MEP. said the export ban would not have been needed had the measures been enforced with rigour from the outset.



See you in three years, says jogger on a lap of the world

of them charting his progress via the Internet — will offer

ROBERT GARSIDE sets out for a jog this morning with the world at his feet. He plans a 33,000-mile route, which would make him the first person to run round the globe, returning home just in time for the big New Year's Eve celebrations in December

The psychology graduate from Stockport, Greater Manchester, expects to wear out about 50 pairs of running shoes, His timetable includes freezing Russian winters and the scorching Saharan sun. And he has no back-up tearn: he plans to run alone, carrying his survival gear in a 27-

litre rucksack.

"My biggest fear is not physical hardship, but loneli-ness," Mr Garside, 29, said yesterday. He will be kissing goodbye to his girifriend, Joanna Souter, 20, for his

farewell from Piccadilly Circus for the first leg through

western Europe. cross Poland, Belarus and "I am as gregarious as anybody. I hope the relation-ships and friendships I have on the way will help. But I am a moving entity, transient to say the least, so I am just ing to have to make do with that. Running is my life and this is the ultimate challenge." He hopes to raise £2 million

for Greenpeace through the Running Man Millennium Appeal, which involves the furthest distance ever run. He fleece lining, a solar-powered will report at the police stations of every town he runs through to help *The Guinness* Book of *Records* to verify his Walkman and two tapes. logbook. He hopes that his presence will go before him and that well-wishers — some

tion. If not, he will be sleeping

Russia, where temperatures are expected to drop to minus 40C. He has a Himalayan survival suit, weighing almost two kilos, for overnight stops. There is also a lighter double hooped bivvy-bag for the warmer dimates of Asia, Australia, the Americas and Africa. His kit also includes a 3.2 litre water container, a Lycra running suit with a

On a trial 2,000-kilometre run across southern Africa, he encountered wild baboons and poisonous snakes, but it 40 miles a day is feasible, he



Robert Garside on a final practice run yesterday for his transglobal marathon.

Scientists itching to get secret of midge's love bites

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

WHEN a female biting midge says No she really means Yes, scientists studying their courtship ritual have

Researchers discovered that the females, including those of that vicious scourge of Scottish holiday-makers the Highland midge, check the health of an eager male by putting up a struggle. Dr Alison Dunder said yesterday: "The female is, it appears, assessing the fitness of the male by the vigour of his response to her unreceptive behaviour. This wrestling can carry on for a couple of minutes, which is quite a long time

The researchers have also found that starving a male keeps him keen, at least in the midge world. "Starved males are the keenest to mate, presumably because they are mussomething now or never.

"The message is: if you want peak sexual form, starve him," said Dr Blackwell, whose studies have been carried out with Jacqui Mair, a postgraduate at the university. The findings, details of which will be disclosed later this month at a meeting of the British Ecological Society at Durham University, have come from studies of the common biting midge, which lives on farmland and feeds off cattle, and the Highland midge. While farmland midges tussle on land the females of the Highland species tussle in-flight. The males swarm and then the wrestling process goes on in the air."

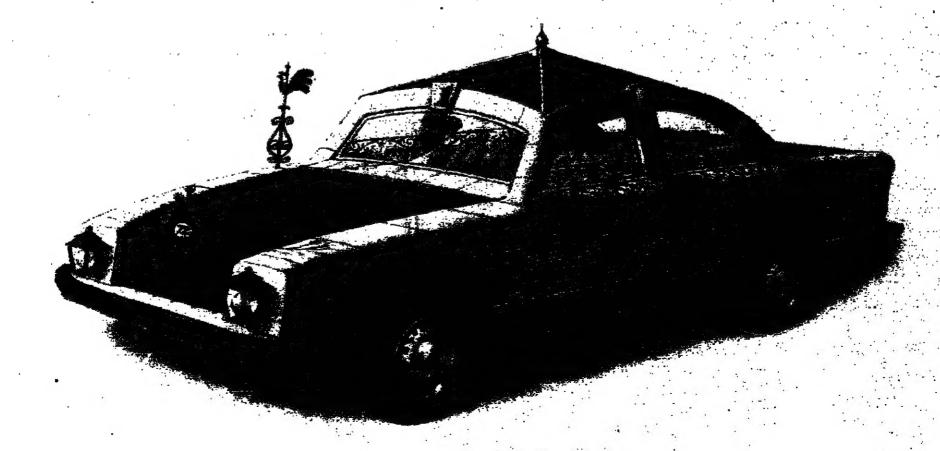
Dr Blackwell said. "Then they fall to the ground and finish it off."

By studying the courtship ritual, the scientists hope to discover a way of controlling the Highland midge. The bloodsucking insect has been known to clear whole campsites

overnight and ruin many a fine fishing holiday. It is even claimed they stopped a train on the hill out of Achnasheen in the Highlands be swarming on the rails in sucroumbers the locomotive lost its grip. Dr Blackwell said there was dearly a female chemical or pheromone involved in initiating courtship and mating. By isolating the active ingre-dient it might be possible to develop ways of huring the males into traps to **Bootballer fine**

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British soccer fans shot in Vienna's red light district

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

TWO Manchester United supporters were shot early yesterday morning after staying on in Vienna to celebrate the team's European Cup victory. One of the men was said to have been critically injured.

Austrian police said that Sieven Daye, 33, and Christo-pher McKenna, 32, were ambushed from a passing car. Two other fans escaped un-hurt in the attack, which may have followed an argument in a bar in Vienna's red light

A police spokesman said Mr Daye, from Chadderton, Greater Manchester, was "seriously injured and is in danger of his life". He was in intensive care at the Danube Hospital after a three-hour operation. Doctors also operated on Mr McKenna to

remove a bullet from his leg. Detectives later interviewed Mr McKenna, from Blackley, Greater Manchester, about the incident, and British diplomats spoke to the two fans who escaped unhurt, Joseph Vickers, 38, and Paul O'Neill; . 30, to try to discover why they

Speaking from his hospital bed, Mr McKenna told the Manchester Evening News:
The four of us were just chatting and laughing when suddenly car windows and shop windows around us shat-

Steven and I were lying on the floor with blood everywhere." Despite an assertion by the British Embassy that the at-tack followed a "vocal altercation" with Austrian fans, Mr

McKenna said the United fans had got on well with the locals, even though Rapid Vienna had lost 20 on Wednesday. "We were really impressed with how friendly the Austrian's were," he said.

"We'd had a brilliant holiday and had been out celebrating, but didn't on overhoard." ing, but didn't go overboard and decided to go back to the hotel because our flight left at 4am. Mr McKenna, who has

been told that he may have to remain in hospital for a week,

said: "I have no idea why we were attacked." An employee at the Piccolo Sauna bar, a sprawling, neon-lit establishment featuring ex-otic dancers, remembered the United fans arriving with two Austrians who were well known in the area and sharing several drinks before an argument began. The barman said: "When the argument got too loud they were all told to leave. The British went first, followed by the barman to the sevent first, followed by the barman to the sevent first, followed by the sevent first first followed by the sevent first followed by the sevent first fir

followed by the Austrians." -The United fans said that as they stood on the pavement a white Mercedes slowed and a gunman leaned from a win-dow and fired a volley of shots.

tered. The next thing I knew A police spokesman said: Steven and I were lying on the "They were shot at from someone in the car, but we do not know what sort of weapon "We do not know what the

argument was about but we do not think it was about football. It may have been about money or girls. It must have been serious. We do not normally have shootings here. it is peaceful." Sidney Daye said his broth-

er Steven was an avid fan of Manchester United and went to all the team's games, at home and abroad. The club said last night that

it was "shocked and sad-dened" by the attack and was co-operating with the Foreign Office and the Austrian authorities in the investigation. A spokesman said: The match itself passed off peacefully. There was a good atmosphere both in and around the stadium with supporters of both teams exchanging pennants and other souvenirs."



My Twinn offers a choice of skin tone, eye colour, hair shade and spectacles

A Stepford doll for little horrors

THE latest toy fad to hit the United States is a "clone" doll tailor-made to resemble the child who will own it. My Twinn will, according to its advertising literature, "help kids and families feel good about themselves and appreciate how special and unique they are".

Families supply photo-graphs and physical details of their daughters, including hair samples, and a Colorado company's plastic surgeons draw up a 23in figurine in floral dresses and hair bows.

There is a choice of six skin tones, 12 eye colours, 13 hair shades and matching specta-cles if required. The basic doll costs £87, but extras such as matching dresses can bring the price to £210.

The doll, with its slightly sinister echoes of the film The Stepford Wives, in which the men in a small town replace their wives with life-size computerised models, is not available in Britain but can be ordered from America. Gerry Masters, of the British Association of Toy Retailers, said yesterday: "It sounds sick, but there's no accounting for



Of all the victims of the millionaire American con-man Armand Hammer. the most poignant were his mistress, Bettye Jean Murphy, and their secret daughter, Victoria 9

THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Footballer fined for brawl in restaurant

A SOCCER star caught on video throwing chairs across a restaurant was fined £4,500 yesterday. Two staff were injured in the attack by Lee Bowyer, an England under-21 international, and two friends

s love bits

at a drive-in McDonald's. Keith Grant, the magistrate. told Bowyer that he had narrowly escaped jail. This clearly was a disgraceful inci-dent and that is confirmed by what I have seen on the viden. It took place in a public place.



Bowyer: seen on video throwing chairs at staff

People were put in fear," Mr Bowyer, 19, who plays for

the Premiership side Leeds United, admitted a charge of affray at Thames Magistrates' Court, London, last month. Yesterday he was also ordered to pay a total of £175 to the two McDonald's staff. Leeds Uni-ted had fined him £4,000.

Ben Bonnici and John Nwikpo, both 19, were fined £600 and £400 respectively for their part in the incident on the Isle of Dogs, east London,

Stephen Pollard, for Bow er, told the court that the footballer was of excellent character and that there had been provocation from one of the staff, who was seen on the

video waving a metal bar. Mr Pollard said that Bowyer's strength of character had been demonstrated by the way the midfielder had played for Leeds United in the Premiership match against Chel-sea last Sunday. "He was extremely fearful of today's appearance but he gave his all," Mr Pollard said.



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AND HELD



for Liffey clock lost in slime

BY AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN'S attempt to count down the seconds to the mil-lennium by installing an un-derwater clock has fallen foul. of the murky waters of the

River Liffey.

The £250,000 digital timepiece, funded by the National
Lottery, was submerged in the river in March to count down to the millennium. But within days nobody could read the nine neon digits. Algal bloom, attracted by the clock's light and heat, took root, turning the clock into a fuzzy yellow haze. Dubliners peering into the Liffey from O'Connell Bridge quickly dubbed it "the chime in the slime".
It was lifted out of the water

in August before the annual Liffey swim and was never put back. Yesterday the lottery admitted that the clock was heading for the scrapheap. Paula McEvoy, a spokeswom-an, said: "I still think it is a beautiful idea, but maybe an idea that is ahead of its time.

The underwater installation was chosen from 30 submissions by architects, designers and artists for the National Lottery Countdown 2000 competition. A judging panel de-cided that the clock was the most innovative and interest-

The six-tonne, flat, rectangular clock was powered by electricity transmitted via underwater cables. It was turned on with much razzmatazz on March 15, with 119 million seconds left to count. About 10,000 people gathered along the walls of the Liffey to see it light up, but few have managed to see it since.

The lottery spent almost four months deliberating what should be done with the slimeridden clock. Ms McEvoy sald the expense of scraping algae off it until 2000 would be more than it cost to build and

Grainne Hassett, one of the two Dublin-based architects behind the design, insisted that the clock "worked spectacularly well and looked fabulous". She added that the algal problems could be solved with more time and research. "We have had calls from all over the world about putting clocks into rivers, so maybe we will find a buver."

Time's up | The families with courage at their heart

Battle to raise funds and save children

By JOHN YOUNG

NATHAN BUTCHER, aged six; lay in the paedriatic intensive care ward at Guy's Hospital after a heart bypass operation. His small body was drugged and wired to a mass of medical equipment. That was last Monday. Less

than 72 hours later he was up, dressed, talking, laughing and attending school classes in another part of the building. Yesterday, his sister Katie, 4. came to visit. Barring a relapse, Nathan should be able to go home next week—
his father, Chris, is keen to take him fishing. Nathan, from Paddock

Wood, Kent, was diagnosed at birth as suffering from aortic stenosis, a malfunction of the aortic valve. A heart murmur had been detected during pregnancy, and he was born six weeks early by Caesarean section.

Three weeks later, while he was still in hospital, he became breathless, and a small balloon was inserted into the valve and inflated to keep It open. Since then, according to his mother, Sally, he has led a normal, physically active life but, during a routine check-up carlier this year, a scan dis-closed that he would soon need a more complex operation. They decided to operate before he became ill." Mrs Butcher said yesterday.

Nathan's story exemplifies the astonishing progress of the Evelina Children's Hospital, the paediatric unit of the Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital Trust in southeast London, in treating heart complaints that only a few years ago would have been considered inoperable.

But the costs are high, money is a constant problem and, at the very time when Nathan was on the operating table, dectors, nurses and parents of other children who have survived heart operathous were gathered in a hospital courtyard to release a stream of red and blue balloons to publicise an appeal

Among them was Laura McCormack and her 16month-old son, Conor, from



Beating the odds: Nathan Butcher, 6, lies in intensive care, with his mother Sally at his bedside. Three days later, he was up and about

THE WAR FIMES CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Woolwich, southeast London. Born a month early by Caesarean section, Conor has not had the easiest start in life, with a cleft palate and a club foot as well as his deformed heart. He suffers regular chest infections and has made several return visits. Given his handicaps, he looks remarkably fit and happy. Mrs McCormack said: "When I

was first told about Conor's condition, it didn't really sink in until I saw the surgeon later. I was scared of giving birth because of the thought that he might not live, but we decided to go ahead."

مكذا من رلامهل

Another patient, Andrew Kerry, was born just over a year ago. When his heart condition was detected by scan in the twentieth week of pregnancy, his parents Colin and Caroline Kerry felt devastated. Mr Kerry said: "I tried to find out as much as I could, which wasn't encouraging. The operation had not then been performed successfully.

"We were faced with three choices: abortion, going ahead with the birth but refusing surgery, or agreeing to the operation." They chose surgery, but Mrs Kerry said: "I think any choice would have been very difficult. If I had been a single mother. had been a single mother.

of a husband, I am sure it would have been very different.

Max Webb, aged six weeks, was back at Guy's with his parents, Kim and Martyn, and his older sister, Martha. Mrs Webb was tested during pregnancy for abnormal chromosomes in the foetus. She was given the all clear and was six months' pregnant before she learnt of her baby's heart condition.

She said: "He was kicking away in my stomach and aiready he seemed to be a personality in his own right. So we decided to let fate take its course. With six months gone and only three to go, we felt we should let him take his

community

NEWS IN BRIEF

GP given service

A GP convicted of child pornography charges was vesterday given 120 hours' community service by West Wiltshire magistrates, who also ordered the destruction of Dr John Payne's home computer equipment and back-up disks. Payne, 49, of Warminster, had admitted using a telephone to transmit and receive a pornographic image, and possessing indecent images of children on disk. He is facing disciplinary action by the General Medical Council.

Farmer killed

A farmer trying to put down a sick cow died when his hu-mane killer went off and hit him in the chest, police said yesterday. Michael Spencer, 51, was trying to escape from a pen at Wiston, Pembrokeshire, after the cow became

Vintage opening

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, took the wheel of a vintage lorry to break the tape and open the extension to the M77 in southwest Glasgow. arnid tight security. Environmentalists had protested for two years, trying to save trees in the path of the road.

Taught a lesson

A dangerous driver banned for 18 months after colliding with a fellow student has had 384 hours' labour imposed on him by the Royal Agricultural College. James Painter, 20, will help in pensioners' gardens and plant daffodils at Cheltenham Racecourse.

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DAYTIME PHONE No

Britain's first gold stamps are to be issued next year to commemorate the Queen's fiftieth wedding anniversary. The first class stamps, printed using a new technique, will be sold in books of ten from April 21, the Queen's seventy-first birthday.

Team loyalty

THE officers of the destroyer HMS Newcastle have incorporated the black and white stripes of Newcastle United Football Club into their formal evening wear. Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, the team's sponsor, is supplying 30 cummerbunds.

A CYCLIST needed emergen-cy surgery after being stabbed in the back by a schoolboy as he pecalled away from traffic lights. Matthew Pogson, 21, received a 6in wound in the

The stabbing came after two

boys, aged 13 or 14, taunted. Mr Pogson, the father of a five-month-old son, when he stopped at lights in Ports-mouth on his way bome from work on Thursday evening. As Mr Pogson pulled away

he heard one of the boys

Within seconds the schoolboy had plunged the knife into his

Doctors told Mr Pogson he was lucky to be alive. Yester-day his condition was described as stable.



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Coastline gems first to be protected by conservation funds

By NICK NUTTALL ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE sea caves and seals of the areas moneys to support con-Northumberland coast, the dolphins of Cardigan Bay and the soft coral sea-fans off Devon are to be better protected, thanks to a big conservation grant from the European

Twelve coastal sites have become the first in Europe to get backing under the Com-mission's Life-Nature programme in recognition of the international importance of their wildlife. A network of marine and land-based areas. called Natura 2000 sites, are being designated across the Continent, of which these British ones will form part.

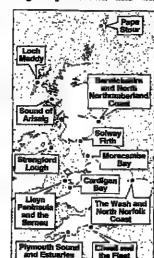
The funds - £2 million from the Commission, matched by £2 million from British nature agencies — will allow regional task forces to draw up action plans aimed at preserving the sites from threats such as development, fishing and pollution. They will also pay for the mapping of reefs, bays and estuaries, and the monitoring of rare plants such as soft

Dr Derek Langslow, chief executive of English Nature. the Government's wildlife advisers, said: "This is a major boost for our marine conservation work within England and the United Kingdom. It will

servation work, and it should ensure that such areas remain a source of inspiration for us and future generations."

In England, five sites called Special Areas of Conservation have won backing. The areas include the North Northumberland Coast, noted for its sea caves, breeding population of grey seals on the Farne Islands, and Arctic species such as the wolf fish.

A management plan could help to create a better balance between the traditional interests of fishermen, who net migratory salmon, and the



Other sites in England include Morecambe Bay, and Norfolk coast, which is noted for its common seal populations, waders and wildfowl,

needs of the seals. There are

also conflicts between the in-

terests of wildfowlers and

water sports enthusiasts, and

the needs of the birdlife.

also the Wash and north insect life and large expense of unspoilt salt marshes. Another is the Plymouth Sound and related estuaries, noted for their submerged sandbanks and species such as the pinky-white sea fans that normally thrive in warm

In Scotland, several sites the Berwickshire coast, Loch Maddy, Papa Stour, the Sol-way Firth and the Sound of Arisaig — are to be given funding. In Northern Ireland. Stranford Lough, which is noted for its spectacular sheltered waters, has been picked.

In Wales, Cardigan Bay and its famous bottlenose dolphin population, the Lleyn Peninsua and the Sarnau special area of conservation, will also benefit from the funding. The latter is noted for Sarn Badrig, also known as St Patrick's Causeway. It is an example of moraine, a heap of glacial rubble left after the last loc Age, and is the only one in Britain.



Festival of lights: many people holding candles gathered for the lighting of the giant menorah in Union Square, San Francisco

Rekindling the light of sustaining faith

Jonathan Sacks

Today is the second day of Hanukkah, the Jewish "festival of lights". For eight nights we light the menorah --- a candelabrum similar to that which once burnt in the Temple in Jerusalem beginning with a single candle and each night adding an extra light. It is a simple, light-hearted festival, but beneath its surface is a complex story

of history and hope.

Hanukkah commemorates events more than 2,000 years ago, after the conquests of Alexander the Great. Israel came under Greek rule, first by the Ptolemies, then the Seleucids. Initially the Greeks dazzled with their military prowess, art and philosophy. But the Seleucid rulers, with some Jewish sympathisers, started to force the pace of cultural assimilation. Funds were diverted from the Temple. A statue of Zeus was erected in Jerusziem. Jewish observance was increasingly frowned on. In 167 BC a set of repressive decrees was issued.

in effect forbidding the practice of Jewish ritual. This was more than many Jews could bear, and it led to rebellion. A handful of pictists, clustered

around the family of the priest Matthias Hasmon and his son Judah the Maccabee, began the fight for liberty. Vastly outnumbered, they suffered heavy initial casualties, but within three years they had scored a ntous victory. Jerusalem was restored to Jewish hands. The Temple was rededicated. Harrukkah, which means "dedication"; was established as a festival to perpetuate the memory

of those days. The significance of Hanukkah, however, was not immediately apparent. At first it seemed to represent a story of military courage, Jews had fought against overwhelming odds and regained their freedom and the First Book of Maccabees. There ther narrative, altogether different in tone. This told of

how when the Maccabees entered the Temple they found a single undefiled cruse of oil with which they were able to relight the Temple candelabrum. Miraculously, it burned for eight days instead of one, and it is this we recall when we light the menorah in

Some two centuries later the Jews Israel faced another adversary: imperial Rome. This time, rebellion. went disastrously wrong. The Temple was destroyed and Jerusalem laid waste. In the prevailing mood of despair there was a proposal to abolish Hanukkah. There samed Hanukkah. There seemed nothing left to celebrate.

It was then that the second story, of the cruse of oil, emerged as the enduring religious symbol. It embodied the truth of which the propher Zechariah spoke when he said: "Not by strength nor by might, but by my spirit, says the Lord."

udaism could survive without power so long as it successively rekindled the light of faith. Like the oil, the Jewish people would renew itself. Its light would not be extinguished. This faith sustained Jewry through some of the harshest trials faced by a people. It is why there

Hanukkah is less a tale of victory than a story of hope. The menoral stands for the strength, greater than ourselves, which at times of pain or persecution gives us the courage to continue. The Book of Proverbs calls the human spirit the "lamp of God". That is what we light on Hanukkah. The miracle is that in the intervening centuries it has never ceased to burn

Medal for saving Monty found

BY JOANNA BALE

A BRAVERY medal awarded to a private who saved Viscount Montgomery of Alamein when he was a young lieutenant in the First World War has returned to his family 40 years after going missing.

Edward Darlow was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal after rescuing the injured Montgomery from a battlefield in France near the Belgian border. Mr Darlow's

grandson William, of Reading, Berkshire, paid £2,100 at auction - four times the guide price - to restore the medal to the family. It had disappeared after his grandfather's death in 1955, and its whereabouts were a mystery until last week, when it was sold anonymous-

Mr Darlow said: "I am proud of my grandfather and thought it important the medal was returned to our family." With the medal was a 1945

newspaper cutting describing how, after rescuing their badly-wounded commanding officer, Mr Darlow and a colleague returned under fire to the battlefield at Meteren.

Mr Darlow, who was 21 and serving with the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment. wrote: "Most of the officers and men were badly wounded. Lieutenant Montgomery was one of them and I recal

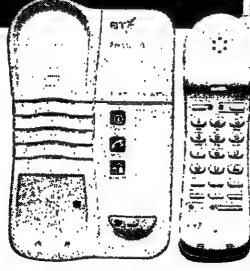
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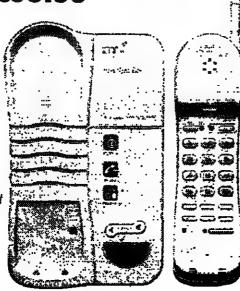
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Heritage status for Hiroshima dome angers Americans

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

ROSHIMA'S atom-bomb me has been added to nesco's list of World Herige sites, despite American

A 21-nation committee esblished under the 1972 forld Heritage Convention icluded the controversial meiorial among 37 new sites esignated at its annual meetig in Mérida, Mexico.

The new sites also include ne 13th-century Cologne canedral in Germany, a Gothic nasterpiece damaged by Al-

ed bombing during the war. The United States and Britin are no longer members of he Paris-based UN Educaional, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which oversees World Heritage sites, but they are among the 147 signatories of the convention under which the sites are chosen.

Washington complained about the selection of the ruined Gebhaku Dome in Hiroshima, which lay directly beneath the epicentre of the first atomic bomb and dissociated itself from the decision.

"The United States is con-cerned about the lack of historical perspective in the nomination of the Genbaku Dome, a US statement said. The events antecedent to the United States' use of atomic weapons to end the Second World War are the key to understanding the tragedy of

> structive force ever created by The committee have been doing sites not just for what they are, but for what they stand for," said a Unesco spokesman. "In the United States, for instance, the Statue of Liberty is there. It's not Michelangelo's David. It's what it stands for."

priate historical context," the

statement said, adding that Washington considered the

designation of war sites be-

The dome, which now stands in the middle of a peace

park in Hiroshima, was pro-

posed by the Japanese Gov-

ernment. The only other Second World War site on the

World Heritage list is the former Nazi death camp at

Unesco officials said the

Japanese memorial had been

chosen as a "stark and power-

ful symbol of the achievement

of world peace for more than half a century following the unleashing of the most de-

Auschwitz.

youd the scope of Unesco.

Although no new British locations were added this year, the United Kingdom has numerous World Heritage sites. They are the Giant's Causeway: Durham Castle and cathedral; the Ironbridge Gorge: Studley Royal Park; Stonehenge; the castles and town walls of King Edward in Gwynedd: St Kildare Island; Blenheim Palace; the city of Bath; Hadrian's Wall; Westminster Palace and Abbey; the Tower of London: Canterbury cathedral, and Edinburgh.



FROM ZAHIÐ HUSSAIN IN KAKACHI

MOST Pakistani candidates could be barred from the coming parliamentary polls under tough new election 'Any examination of the period leading up to 1945 should be placed in the appro-

The Representation of People law decreed by President Farooq Leghari requires candidates to be sagacious, righteous, non-profligate, hon-est and taxpayers. There are few among the country's expresidents, generals or politi-cians who meet all the conditions. The elections are scheduled for February 3.

The law makes it compulsory for a candidate to declare family assets and income tax paid. Those who have not paid. taxes, utility bills, or who have defaulted on loan repayments or had them written off, will be barred. False declarations will be punishable by five years' imprisonment,

Fakharuddin Ebrahim, the caretaker Law Minister, said a list of politicians who have defaulted on bank loans or had them written off would be supplied to the election com-

The Government would also publish the candidates' declarations of assets. The minister said that those elected would have to declare their income and wealth every year to keep their seats.

Few of the politicians who have controlled Pakistan's political scene for the last live decades since the creation of the country have paid tax. President Leghari, one of the country's biggest landlords, does not pay any. A recent report revealed that many former MPs owed huge amounts to governmentowned banks and financial



construction site yesterday at the mountain village of Otari in Nagano, 125 miles north-west of Tokyo. Hundreds of police and firefighters sifted through tonnes of mud and snow searching for victims after two bodies were found

Mudslide in Japan kills 14

and another 12 people were reported missing. All 14 are thought to have died shortly after they were buried under

65ft of mud and rocks along the Kamaharasawa river, a police spokesman said. An amateur video taken by one worker showed three surges of rocks and mud crashing through the valley and gushing through a concrete chan-

WORLD SUMMARY

Cult gas target 'to rival Iraq'

Tokyo: Shoko Asahara, leader of the doomsday Aum Shin-rikyo cult and alleged mastermind of the nerve gas attack on the Tokyo underground, was possessed by an ambition to produce more nerve gas than Iraq, a former "disciple" sold a court here yesterday

(Robert Whymant writes). Shigeo Sugimoto, the guru's chauffeur, said in evidence that Mr Asahara ordered him in July 1994 to take chemicals to the cult's headquarters where scientists belonging to the cult produced the gas sarin which was used in the attack in March last year.

Southern India hit by cyclone

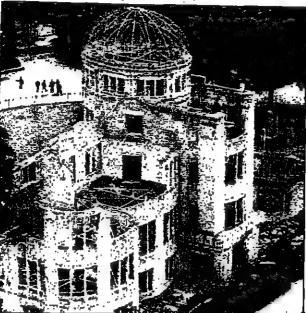
Machilipatnam, India: Heavy rain and 50 mph winds lashed India's southeast coast yesterday as an erratic tropical storm finally stopped circling around the Bay of Bengal and hit land, forcing thousands to flee. The storm which at one point had winds of 125mph - changed course again and struck at Sriharikota, where India's rockets and satellites are launched. (AP)

Child sex inquiry head to resign

Sydney: Chris Hunt, the head of an inquiry into alleged paedophile activity in Australia's diplomatic service, has been ordered to stand down on the ground of perceived bias (Roger Maynard writes). The Federal Court ordered the action after it upheld an appeal from an officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

False start for Olympic team

Johannesburg: Members of the International Olympic Committee's evaluation commission arrived in Cape Town to examine the city's bid to host the 2004 Olympics five hours late because a technica fault delayed the South African Airways jet from London (Ray Kennedy writes).



The stom-bomb dome, which is now in a peace park

Ghana's voters set to deliver verdict on socialist who embraced IMF

BY SAM KILEY RICA CORRESPONDENT

GHANA'S flamboyant leader, Jer-y Raylings, takes his country to he pois today in a democratic test vhich will be as much a referenolicie in Africa as a challenge to

gave up his air force rank of flight lieutenant, is expected to win the presidential race, but his party, the National Democratic Congress, is likely to perform poorly against a coalition of opposition parties in voting for the national assembly.

of the New Patriotic Party and the People's Convention Party will win between 70 and 80 seats in the 200-

member parliament, making it one for World Bank and International of the strongest legal oppositions in

Whether the alliance can win more seats will depend on how voters judge Ghana's economy. Although Mr Rawlings was drawn a military coup in 1982, he soon imposed a harsh austerity proMonetary Fund economic restructuring plans for other Third World countries. He freed Ghana's economy, cut government subsidies to ailing industries, and promised to slash the public-sector payroll.

has a 30 per cent rate of inflation. which Accra's independent Centre for Economic Policy Analysis predicts will increase to 70 per cent. Foreign investment, which has increased under Mr Rawlings, is still only half what it was in 1975. Ghanaians last voted in 1992.

The price for inflation is likely only to be felt after the elections. Then a strong opposition in par ment may seriously frustrate Mr Rawlings," a Western ambassador in Accra said yesterday.

John Kufour, a lawyer from the Ashanti region, will challenge Mr Rawlings for the presidency. He is backed by the New Patriotic Party but his running-mate, Kow Arkaah. Mr Rawlings's former Vice-President, is more likely to capture the ination, baving cused the President of kneeing him in the groin on his last Cabinet



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OVERSEAS NEWS

Bankruptcy looms as tide of scandal breaks over Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

VIEWED from its splendid oceanfront setting, it is hard to comprehend how bankruptcy hangs over Miami City Hall. Luxury pleasure boats fill the marinas and the city's wealthiest visitors sun them-

selves by the pools of the big hotels. But Miami is not what it seems. In the aftermath of a sordid civic scandal that saw the city manager, Miami's top administrator, arrested on bribery and corruption charges, local officials have uncovered a financial mess. The city, which has an annual budget of about \$200 million (£122 million), is missing at least \$68 million, maybe more. It could face bankruptcy as early as March and its once strong bond rating has sunk to

On Tuesday Lawton Chiles, Governor of Florida, declared the city to be in a state of financial emergency. His ac-tion came after city council members refused to take unpopular measures to raise revenue and reduce spending. A group of civic activists is abolished, allowing a takeover of its inefficiently run municipal services by the larger metropolitan authority of Dade County. Holiday operators fear that the scandal has put another dent in Miami's international image, already plagued by tourist murders and one of the worst crime rates in America, racial tensions and severe economic inequalities.

Instead of its glittering reputation for a five-star beach holiday. Miami looks more and more like a banana republic. What went wrong? Analysts point to a young city that got rich quick and out-grew its moral and financial ability to administer itself. City officials admit as much. This is a classic story of what mismanagement and corruption will do to a city," said Joe Carollo, the city's Mayor, who was elected in July shortly before the crisis struck. "Be-

fore it is over, it will be a story

that should be told to every

municipal administrator so

image, tourism officials say that the crisis does not affect visitors to south Florida. Although the urban area of Miami has more than two million residents in two dozen small city districts, only 365,000 live within Miami's city limits. Therein lies part of the

problem. Despite a financial area of tall, flashy office buildings and a few wealthy waterfront districts, Miami is the fourth poorest city in the nation. A recent study found that 31.5 per cent of the city population is living in poverty. The luxury blocks of flats on

Miami Beach, full of affluent retired people, lie outside its city limits. Critics say that Miami is a city so obsessed with its glamorous tourist image abroad that it has ignored its inner-city reality. No one has been asking, how are we going to pay these bills, how are we going to make this work," Robert Joffee, a Miami political consultant, said. "No one is thinking about the poor





Chelsea Clinton during a dress rehearsal of the Washington Ballet's production of Tchalkovsky's Nutcracker Suite at George Mason University in Virginia

Colombi peasants killed by vigilante

SOUTH AMERICA

PARAMILITARY groups w are terrorising rural Colomb yesterday left the bullet-r died bodies of at least Andean peasants in ditch and fields around two village in northern and central

Locals in the northern fee growing village of To Viejo, in the department Sucre, woke at dawn to lin relatives or friends among 17 badly beaten bodies, which had been left in pits near rubbish dump, Some ha backs and "communist" wri ten in blood on their chests. Meanwhile villagers in

central mining district Boyaca found the bodies of s bullet-riddled campesino or farmers, dumped in the fields around their homes with handwritten messas saying: "We will kill ref sympathisers."

Police said the killings wen the work of vigilante group which have proliferated in the past few months in remote rural areas. "All the evidence we have shows that thes massacres are the work of the paramilitary groups who operate in the regions," said Enrique Ortega, commander of the police in Sucre. The police is the only force the public does not associate with human rights violations.

The paramilitaries, locally know as grupos de autosquads", were first at up and armed by the military in 1991 to help in the fight against leftwing rebels of the PARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.) A ocent Hu-man Rights Watch sport said the military had received help from the CIA in setting up the

paramilitary groups However, the vigilante groups, often made up of the former bodyguards if convict-ed drug-traffickers, are illegal. They go around introrising a farming communities, accusing people of being left-wing rebels and performing public executions in village quares, said a Western dipomat in

Dozens of rival egilante groups have sprouted in several greas, and human right groups say they are espons ble for the deaths of at leas 2,000 civilians. The group are often funded by ric businessmen in the coffee an mining districts who want "cleanse" their areas of gue rilla activity.

"Landowners and lig bu nessmen want to eradica support for the rebits th exists in the poorer villages they just go around killing a taking the law into their or hands," said the Western of · lonneit ·



Primrose Hill

girl sees

of China

Great Wall

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CIA chief vows to fight drugs and terrorism

FROM TOM RIJODES IN WASHINGTON

THE last time Anthony Lake had a hand in covert surveillance his telephones were tapped after he resigned from Richard Nixon's Government in protest at the invasion of

Last night President Clin-ton's National Security Advis-er was pondering his latest brush with American esplonage as director-designate of the CIA, the sprawling and American intelligence which has become a political graveyard since the end of the Cold War. Mr Lake, 57, will be-come the fifth director in as many years, reflecting not merely the devastation to the agency by two highly placed moles but also its apparent inability to chart a suitable course since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The spy game has changed radically in recent years. The CIA station chief in Moscow now presents his credentials to the Russian intelligence service just as Russia's man in Washington identifies himself at Langley, the American

Clinton to

tone down

re-election

festivities

By Tom Rhodes

PRESIDENT Clinton has developed a case of mild humil-

ity in planning for his second

Instead of his triumphant

arrival in 1993, Mr Clinton

and his wife, Hillary, are

expected to take an informal

stroll down Pennsylvania Ave-

nue to the White House after

he is sworn in as the first re-

elected Democrat since Frank-

performances by Jessye Nor-man, Barbra Streisand and

Miller Williams, the Arkansas

poet and friend of the Clin-

tons, will be modest compared

with the \$33 million (£20.6

million) festival four years ago

which embarrassed many

Barry Toiv, a White House official, said: "Mr Clinton is

no longer a new President. He doesn't need an introduction,

The event also coincides with Martin Luther King Day

and the ceremony will reflect Mr Clinton's wish to portray

himself as a President for both

reduced to three days includ-

ing the traditional swearing in on January 20, a date set in

Mr Clinton has also been

forced to swallow a certain

amount of pride over his book,

Between Hope and History,

published in August. Little

more than a compendium of the President's speeches, the

volume appears to have been

rather less popular with readers than he was with voters.

Publishers expect to have between 250,000 and 350,000

copies returned to them out of the 492,891 printed.

black and white America.

stone by the Constitution.

The ceremonies, involving

mauguration next month.

Dead-drop mailboxes have long been retired along with invisible ink and poisontipped canes. Most important-, in the words of a former director, the Soviet dragon has been replaced by a nest of highly poisonous snakes in terrorism, nuclear proliferation, ethnic conflicts and

drugs trafficking.
"I firmly believe that, in the post-Cold War world, the role of the CLA is more important than ever in defending Americans against the threats of terrorism and the prolifera-

destruction," Mr Lake said on accepting the new post, "and in giving the President the unvarnished facts on which he can base wise decisions in

A product of the East Coast foreign policy elite who, after four years as National Security Adviser, can justifiably gence, Mr Lake should be the director for whom the CIA has always yearned. Intent on collegiality in the national security team, he will certainly bring the intelligence community closer to its power base at the White House. Although soft-spoken and professorial, he is seen by

colleagues as a determined

bureaucratic infighter who

has always avoided the But Mr Lake enters a CIA

reeling from the aftermath of Aldrich Ames, the most damaging mole to work at the agency, and the recent discovery of Harold Nicholson, the most senior employee to be charged with spying for a foreign power. Allegations of dirty tricks in Guatemala and blacks that the CIA allow Nicaraguan crack dealers to target poor areas in Los Angeles to ensure funds for the Contra movement, have only made matters worse.

Although relations between the CIA and the Pentagon improved under John Deutch, the current director. his outspokenness and overarching ambition sealed his swift departure.



Lake: soft-spoken but determined infighter

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. West Bank disputes delay plan for summit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

URGENT efforts to arrange a meeting between Binyamin' Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat. the head of the Palestinian Authority, to complete a deal on pulling Israeli forces out of Hebron ran into new problems last night.

Both leaders had separately expressed a willingness to meet, and negotiators from the Palestine Liberation Organisation had forecast that a threeway meeting involving the PLO, Israel and Egypt could take place in Cairo as early as tonight, under the chairmanship of President Mubarak

Senior American officials... are convinced that face-to-face talks between the two men, who last met at the emergency Washington summit in September, are needed to over-come the final obstacles preventing the long-delayed deal to pull Israeli forces out of 80 per cent of Hebron, where 450 Jews live amid 120,000

Dennis Ross, the American special envoy to the Middle East who has been in charge of efforts to broker a Hebron accord, told reporters in Washington that final arrangements for a summit had not yet been completed. "The important thing is that they are talking about having a

meeting," he said. Yesterday Mr Netanyahu told his right-wing Cabinet. The negotiations on the issue of Hebron have been exhausted and it is possible to conclude the problems that are left by a meeting at the political level as long as the

other side does not at the last moment raise new obstacles. The true question is whether the Palestinian side is interest-

ed in reaching a conclusion." With tensions in Hebron running high as thousands of Israelis make plans to travel there to join Jewish settlers on Tuesday to mark the festival of Hanukka, the PLO denounced the Israeli Government's suggestion that the deal was "almost" done and that the Palestinians were stalling.

"That "almost" had hidden within it several important, cardinal points which are still not agreed upon. Ahmed Tibi, the senior adviser to Mr Arafat told Israel radio. There is a signed agreement and the entire world knows that Yassir Arafat will never

change the agreement."

Another adviser to the Paiestinian leader. Nabil Abu Rdainah, said: "President Arafat is ready to meet Prime Minister Netanyahu, but no time or date has been set."

After eight weeks of diplomatic haggling marked by repeated israeli predictions of an imminent breakthrough, PLO officials said last night that outstanding issues included argument over Israel's claim of rights of "hot pursuit" into the Palestinian controlled sector of the holy city and the type of weapons to be carried by the Palestinian police.

Israel's extreme Right has been outraged by Mr Netanyahu's stated intention to honour the principle of the Hebron deal negotiated in 1995 by Yitzhak Rabin, his Labour predecessor.



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FIRST TELECOM

SEX and violence ratings will be slapped on American television programmes from next month to warn parents that the content may be unsuitable for children, according to plans hammered out by the industry months of tense talks.

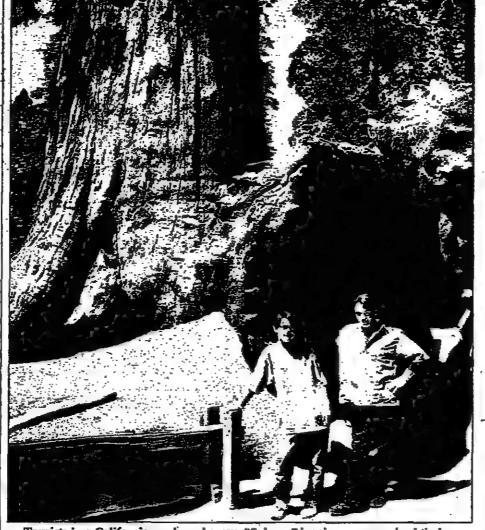
The ratings, which will broadly follow the system used to classify new films, specify the appropriate age group of viewers.

However, there will be no ign of whether a programme arned its rating for sex, folence or bad language.

Medical Association say that the system will not give parenough information. They accuse the television industry of being afraid to label a programme as violent

The move follows a new telecommunications law which, will, force television manufacturers to install programme-blocking devices known as "V-chips" in new sets to enable parents to screen out programmes with undesirable content.

The ratings will apply to all broadcast and cable television, except sport and news.



Green foot-soldiers fight for giants of the forest

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN CARLOTTA, CALIFORNIA

SWINGING on the end of a climbing rope above the Gold-en Gate Bridge, the actor Woody Harrelson joined a posse of environmentalists ast week in a bitter struggle to halt the destruction of some of the planet's tallest trees. Back on the ground after causing a four-hour traffic jam, he was promptly arrested.

It was the latest skirmish in a battle dividing much of California, with its front line 300 miles north of San Francisco in a camp of naturelovers with names like Jay Bird and Laughing Coyote. Their mission is to save the world's last unprotected ancient redwoods from the

The campsite beside Grizzly Creek in Humboldt County is where the muddy foot-soldiers of Earth First gather each morning with mugs of muesli to plot the next phase of their duel with the Pacific Lumber Company. Towering Douglas fir trees dwarf the tents, but the redwoods over which the region is now feuding openly are another two hours into the backcountry by dirt road and trespassers' footpath. Here, mushrooms, trees that were alive when Hannibal crossed the Alps over 2000 years ago grow taller than Big Ben. These are the only uncut redwoods left outside California's park system, which protects barely 4 per cent of the giant trees that once covered the coastal ranges. For all but the oldest of them, the sawmill

Two of six pristine redwood groves in Pacific Lumber's Headwaters Forest were sav-ed recently by a controversial pact between the Government and the company's owner, the Texan financier Charles Hurwitz But in and around the other four groves timber is Details of the pact released

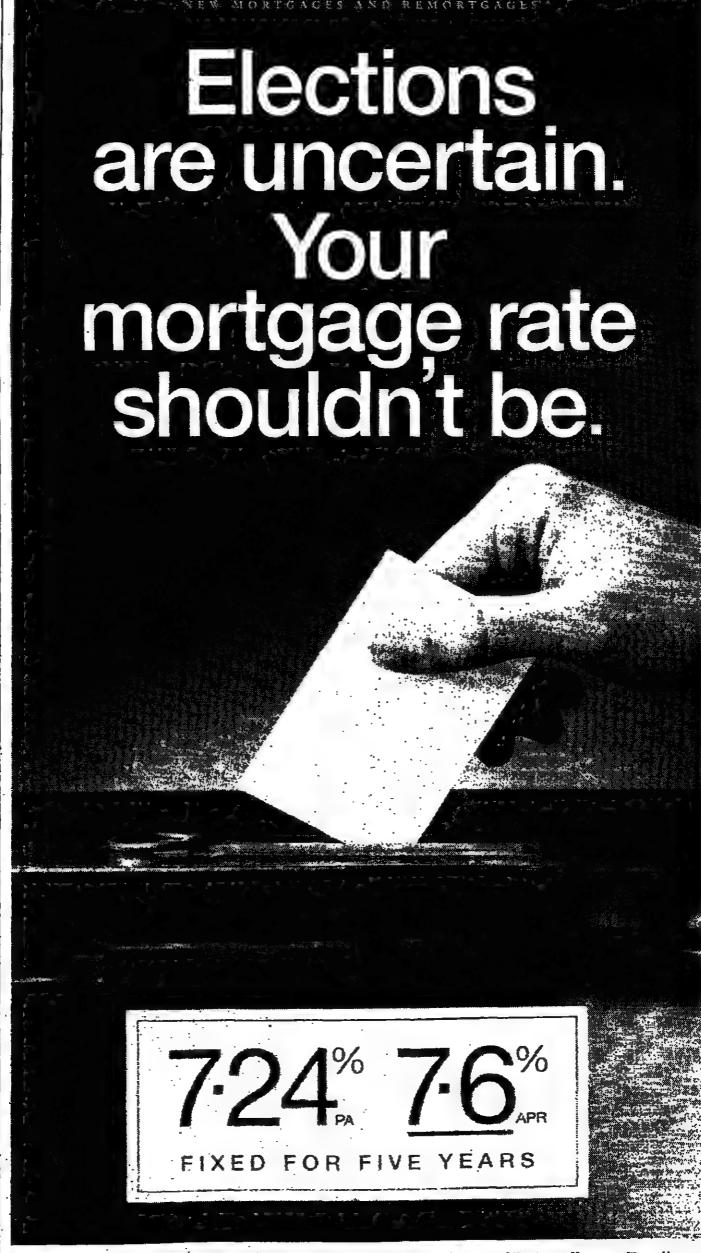
yesterday show that Mr Hurwitz has been offered prime Californian property and 10,000 acres of less pre-cious forest, worth \$300 million (£187,5 million) in all, in return for leaving 3,500 acres at Headwaters unscathed.

Tracks have been cut into three of the unprotected groves for so-called "salvage logging", which removes only dead and dying timber. In the

fragile life-support system, bi-ologists say, and destroys the habitat of endangered species.

Grimly surveying the damage, "Goat", a guide from the Earth First camp, described dodging security guards on night runs to supply fellow protesters as they staged a two-week "tree sit" in a vain attempt to save this slope. "If we can't get people to care about the redwoods, we're lost," Goat said. Blockades have become routine in the Greens' showdown with loggers and the police. So has a degree of paranoia. "Loose lips sink ships", a sign at the camp says, adding that the payphone is bugged and de-tails of forthcoming raids should be passed on on a need-to-know basis only". More than 1,200 protesters have been arrested since

Mr Hurwitz has declined all interview requests, but did talk this year to a rabbi. Concerned by the rabbi's warning that grave sin was possible even within the letter of the law, Mr Hurwitz replied that sparing the redwoods, which fetch up to \$200,000



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Gaullists face new shame after arrest of party fundraiser

engulfed President Chirac's ruling Gaullist party yesterday when anti-corruption magistrates investigating illegal political funding closed in on both the party's personnel chief and the wife of the Paris Mayor.

Louise-Yvonne Casetta, nicknamed la cassette (the cashbox) for her fundraising activities on behalf of the Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party, was ordered to be detained for another 24 hours yesterday. She was taken into custody after a dawn raid at her home on Thursday.

Patrick Desmure, the magistrate, was expected to order an official inquiry last night into allegations that Mme Casetta, the party's former head of personnel widely seen as the Gaullists' "secret banker", misused company funds and filled the RPR's coffers by demanding huge payments in exchange for city building

In a separate, but equally damaging, case of alleged political corruption, Xavière Tiberi, the wife of Jean Tiberi who succeeded M Chirac as Paris Mayor last year, was esterday placed under formal nvestigation on suspicion that she was peid Fr200,000 (£25,000) by a regional authority for writing a short report that was largely plagiarised, peppered with errors and virtually uscless.

president of the Essone local

FROM ROGER MAYNARD

A DOZEN airline passengers

needed hospital treatment in Sydney after they were thrown from their seats dur-

ing a flight over the Austra-

The Singapore Airlines

A340 Airbus was cruising at

30,000ft when it was buffeted

caused it to plunge 300ft in a

few seconds. Dozens of pas-

lian Outback.

ployed Mme Tiberi to write the report, was named in the

French magistrates have spent months investigating what they claim was a vast illegal funding system for M Chirac's party based on kickbacks for city building contracts while he was Mayor of

According to recent testimoby a company executive. Mme Casetta, in her role as 'shadow treasurer' for the RPR. extracted large cash payments from building companies in exchange for lucra-tive public housing contracts in the early 1990s.

She allegedly demanded that companies pay between 2 and 3 per cent of the value of the contracts in backhanders amounting to hundreds of thousands of francs. Jean-



Xavière Tiberi: report was

Rough ride for jet over outback

sengers were thrown from

their seats and 12, including a

pregnant woman, received

for head and back injuries on their arrival in Sydney. One woman later underwent sur-

gery for a broken hip.

spital treatment yesterday

The injured passengers, all

of whom were at the rear of

the aircraft, had to be taken

off at Sydney airport on

stretchers and in wheelchairs.

Junxian Ng. a passenger from Singapore, said: "I was

Claude Pittau, former boss of Mazzotti public building contractors, told magistrates that his company had paid Mme Casetta at least Fr500,000 in return for three building contracts in Paris.

The deal was allegedly arranged over dinner at Carré des Feuillants, one of the most expensive restaurants in Paris, and M Pittau claimed the money was delivered person-ally to Mme Casetta in the form of banknotes stuffed into

ready been placed under investigation in the case, along with Jean-Claude Mery, Paris consultant who worked according to judicial sources.

On September 15 the RPR announced that Mime Casetta "no longer has a job, a salary or an office" at its headquarters, but despite the party's efforts to distance itself from her; the case may implicate other high-ranking party

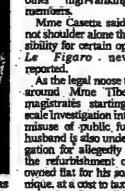
Mme Casena said she will not shoulder alone the responsibility for certain operations. Le Figaro . newspaper

As the legal noose tightened around Mine Tiberi, with magistrates starting a fullscale investigation into alleged misuse of public funds, her husband is also under investi-gation for allegedly ordering the returbishment of a cityowned flat for his son, Dominique, at a cost to tuxpayers of

people in front of me just went upwards, bilting their heads and coming back down again.

There were children crying and hand luggage was flying all over the place."

Singapore Airlines said the





A detail from the depiction of Natalya Goncharova, Pushkin's wife, in a recent Playboy:

Feminists rebel over Playboy view of Russian heroines

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A SERIES of nude painting depicting some of Russia's most famous heroines has prompted legal action by angry feminists and scholars against Moscow's newly opened Playboy magazine.
In what is building up into a

battle between old and new cultures in Russian society, the prestigious Academy of Sciences and the Centre for Gender lasues have gone to court to seek damages for what they contend were degrading representations of some of Russia's most revered

turbulence occurred so sud-Playboy, which started pubdenly that the pilot did not lishing a Russian edition 18 have a chance to warn passen months ago, ran a series of portraits of Catherine the not detectable on radar mid is Great, Natalya Goncharova, comparatively rare Pushkin's wife, Feodosiva Morozova, a 17th-century reli-

gious dissident, and Sofia Korvalevskaya, a 19th-century mathematician, in various stages of undress. The paintings were drawn by Dmitri Vrubel, a Russian artist who won world acciaim for his Berlin Wall mural The Kiss of Death, which depicted Leonid

Erich Honecker, the former East German leader. Playboy warned its readers not to take the portraits too seriously and explained that the magazine was simply living up to its name. Therefore we play, are playing, and will play as we wish," it wrote.

Brezhnev, the former Soviet

leader, locked in a kiss with

However, in an open letter before it began its legal action, the Gender Centre said: "We call on all of you who disagree with the image of a masturbat-

enclosing a Christmas card.

ing woman mathematician, a topless Catherine the Great, and a religious dissident in sexual heat ... to support our campaien."

The Academy of Sciences took up the appeal this week, launching a 100 million roubles (£11,000) lawsuit against the magazine under Article 152 of the Civil Code, which less plaintiffs sue for damages if their reputation is harmed.
"We decided to act to protect

the reputation of Sofia Korvalevskaya, said Leonid Petryenko, a lawyer representing the Academy of Sciences. Artyem Trotsky, the editor of Playboy. insisted that his magazine, which publishes some of Russia's best modern writers, prided itself on never producing anything porno-

Africa sends peace envoys to Bangui

Bangui: Christophe Grelombe, a former Central African Republic Interior Minister, and his son have been abducted and murdered in growing ethnic violence in the capital Bangui. Witnesses said they had been seized by troops loyal to the President, Ange Felix Patasse, when they clashed with

mutinous soldiers. President Chirac voiced support for the country's elected Government but said his troops, based in the former French colony under defence pacts, could not help to fight mutineers but may only take part in maintaining order to avoid major abuses and protect foreign communities. A Franco-African summit in Burkina Faso decided to send President Compaore of Burking Paso and the Heads of State of Gabon, Mali and Chad to try to end the fighting. (Reuter)

Arms charges denied

Calcutta: Peter Bleach, a British arms dealer accused of dropping weapons by parachute into eastern India last year, said that he had pleaded not guilty in a Calcutta court to sedition and conspiracy. The former British army officer and five Latvians were arrested on December 22 last year, five days after a Russian AN26 aircraft dropped the arms in West Bengal state. The authorities recovered 224 AK47 and AK56 rifles with more than 17,000 rounds of ammunition, eight rocket launchers, 80 anti-tank grenades and seven 9mm pistols. Officials believe that the weapons were destined for the Hindu cult Ananda Marg, whose headquarters are near the drop site. (Reuter)

Family shot dead

Mexico City: A married couple who exposed government and drug corruption have been found dead, together with their three children, at their suburban home on the capital's edge. All five had been shot in the head. Fernando Balderas published the magazine Cuario Poder, which specialised in exposing corruption, and had advised two Mexican attorneys-general. Yolanda Figueroa, his wife, had just written The Boss of the Gulf, a book about Juan García Abrego, a convicted cocaine smuggler. US authorities say García Abrego built his Gulf Cartel — the second thost powerful in Mexico — partly through his ties to top Mexican officials, which he woo with millions of dollars in bribes. (AP)

A space odyssey

lumbia's landing was postponed for a second day because of bad weather - but the delay was a bonus for Dr Story Musgrave, right, at 61 the world's oldest astronaut, who was on a record sixth and final voyage. The delay also makes the mission the longes shuttle flight, at nearly 18 days. The five astronauts, with enough fuel and supplies to last until Wednesday, try again today. (AP)



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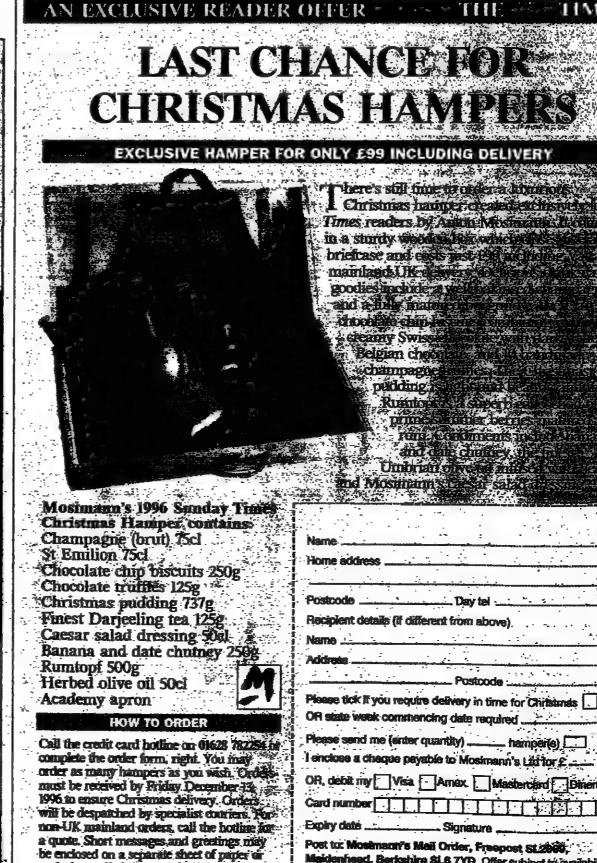
chair here for abducting a 30-year-old man from a mobile home, driving him to an abandoned airstrip and hitting him with a tyre lever before shooting him twice in the face with a shotgun. He then stole from the home. An accomplice, Michael Frederick, was sentenced to 347 years in prison. (AP)

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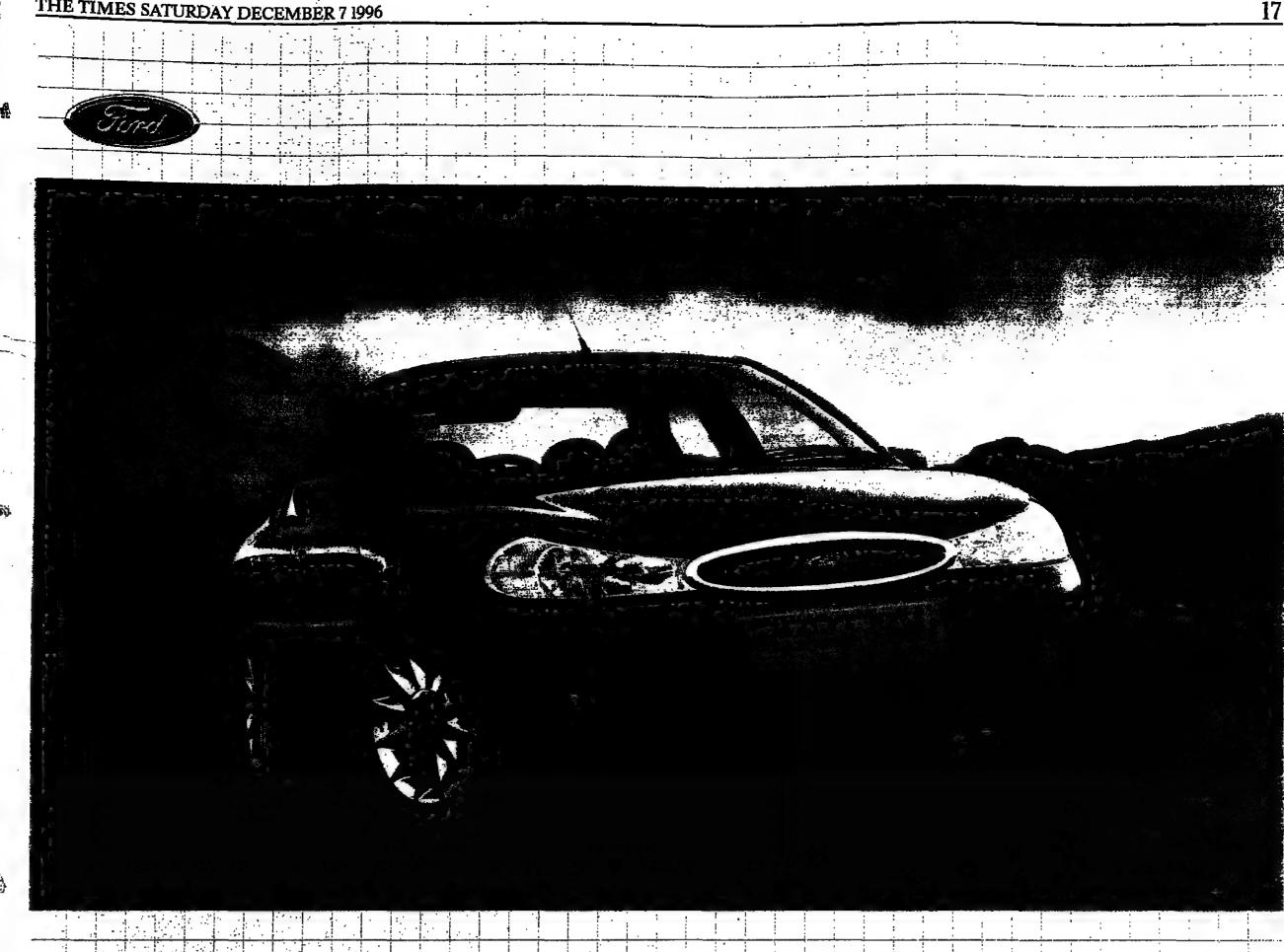
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FOR MPERS



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new

Sinister deeds of Kohl's dare-devil spymaster are threatening to tarnish Chancellor's image

008's days numbered

strength of Helmut Kohl is vested in his entou raige, loyal Stakhanov ites who rarely see their wives

BERLIN FILE by ROGER BOYES

and who spend their waking hours being driven and teased by the Chancellor.

Men like Fritz Bohl, the chancellery chief, and Joachim Bitterlich, the foreign policy adviser, pose as selfeffacing civil servants, but they in fact run Germany by mastering the detail that the Chancellor forgets or neglects, The weak link in this team

is the dapper, former grammar school headmaster Bernd Schmidbauer, who has been dubbed Agent 008. He is the Chancellor's adviser on sec-

Trappings of office

THE Reichstag is a mess. around parliament. But the After being wrapped and un-wrapped by package artist Christo, the once and future parliament is now swaddled in scaffolding as Germany struggles to keep to its dead-lines. Both the German parliament and the Chancellor have promised to be in residence by the end of 1999, but Helmut Kohi's dream of mak-ing Berlin the fully-fledged political capital by the new millennium is fading.

The scramble is already on for the best offices in and

urity affairs and the closest that Germany has to a daredevil politician. Herr Schmid-

bauer negotiates exchanges of prisoners and corpses between Israel and Iran, wades through South American jungles with anti-drug squads. disappears for days in the Middle East. Now he is in hot water rather than hot climes. This week he has faced a parliamentary grilling about

a shadowy freelance spy, Werner Mauss, who was recently arrested in Colombia. Herr

most intriguing problem is the wallpaper. Should the corridors of power be plastered with the new bug-proof covering designed by Sie-mens? The wallpaper, called wife was not amused. Shieldex, is copper-encased nylon and the main customers are likely to be hospitals trying to block electromagnetic interference with their machinery. Both houses of parliament have ordered

eral missions for the Government. The latest gotiator with

guerrilla group, the ELN, to secure the release of the wife of a kidnapped German executive. The Colombian authorities have accused Herr Mauss of playing a double game and of being in league with the Marxist guerrillas. That means trouble for Herr Schmidbauer who admits to having met Herr Mauss six times and to helping to arrange false passports for the agent. Sooner rather than later the

Chancellor probably will have to drop his security chief. He has survived other scandals, personal and political. His impassioned wife once strode into Herr Schmidbauer's favourite Italian restaurant and had a stand-up row with the sleekly groomed, chainsmoking spymaster; Herr Schmidbauer had made his mistress pregnant and his

The trial of an alleged Iranian hit team, now coming to a climax in Berlin, has also revealed unsavoury aspects of Herr Schmidbauer's dealing with the Tehran regime. It was Herr Schmidbauer who proudly showed Ali Fallahian. the Iranian Police Minister, around the headquarters of



Bernd Schmidbauer with Helmut Kohl at a European soccer match at Old Trafford featuring Italy and Germany

the German espionage and counter-espionage services. During the Berlin trial it emerged that Mr Fallahian had ordered assassinations in the German capital.

As in the case of Herr Mauss's Colombian muddle, there is usually a humanitarian argument to be put. Herr Schmidbauer has always been given the benefit of the doubt by Herr Kohl, but this direct line between Herr Kohl and rather sinister acts of derring-do around the world

is proving an embarrassment. Herr Kohl increasingly sees himself as the History Man and adventures by his senior staff detract from, rather than

add to, the glory.

The critical problem is that there is no solid legal underpinning to these antics. Herr Schmidbauer and his staff of 25 are supposed only to coordinate and oversee the activities of the espionage service (BND), the domestic counterespionage organisation and military counter-espionage.

The Chancellor is no great admirer of covert intelligence - a quality he shares with his predecessor Helmut Schmidt, who said he discovered more by reading a British riews-paper — and Herr Schmidbauer in turn has shown little respect for previous service. chiefs. Nowadays the BND. regarded for years as an accident-prone Keystone Cops operation, is managed by a-safe pair of hands, Hansjoerg

Geiger. It is moving from. Cold War business to counter-

terrorism, combating organised crime and the drugs trade. That gives Herr Schmidbauer even less to do. hence his taste for initiating his own missions.

The essential dilemma is that while every leader needs firemen and trusted staff ready to dirty their hands. these people should not draw attention to themselves. The miracle of a freed hostage should be attributed without qualification to the Chancellor; the failures forgotten fast.

No star treatment for Angel

MARLENE DIETRICH. the legendary film vamp, is at the heart of a new Berlin row.

The Social-Democrat council in Schoeneberg district thinks it is time to honour the heroine of The Blue Angel. She earned the Medal of Freedom from the Americans and another gong from the French Foreign Legion probably for her part in Morocco when she jilted a millionaire to have an affair with a penniless Legionnaire played by

Gary Cooper. But Germans have been reluctant even to admit that Berlin was her home town as well as the place where she is buried.

She left Germany in the 1930s, despised the Nazis. gave financial help to some Jewish emigrés in the United States, performed for American troops and, after the war, entered bruised and battered Berlin wearing a US

That last act has not been forgotten quickly the Social-Democrat offices to oppose the creation of a Mariene Dietrich Strasse. Her graves has been smeared with

Charities want brothel ban reviewed

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

LEADING Catholic charities in Italy yesterday called for a 40-year-old law banning brothels to be reviewed as part of an attempt to solve the growing problem of prostitution, which they have described as a form of 20th-

century slavery.
The groups, which include immigrant charities run by the Italian Bishops' Conference and Caritas, the aid agency, said that the 1958 "Merlin law" — named after Angela Merlin, the Socialist anti-prostitution campaigner should be looked at again. The law banned legal brothels or "closed houses", but had the effect of driving prostitutes on to the streets, where their numbers have been swelledrecently by illegal immigrants from Albania and Africa.

Shieldex but the chancellery

is wondering whether it can

afford electronic decor.

But the groups said there were solutions short of the reestablishment of brothels, including cracking down on pimps by confiscating their illegal earnings and offering financial help to prostitutes who wanted to "come off the

Catholic agencies joined other political and social groups in deploring a decision this week by Milan

city council to drive prostitutes off the streets by sending photographs of clients' cars to their homes. Opposition councillors said the scheme would wreck marriages, and local police argued that it was unworkabie.

The plan, put forward by Riccardo De Corato, leader of the post-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale in Milan, was approved by 16 votes to ten, with aix abstentions. Left-wing counciliors said

the plan was a "violation of privacy, honour and reputation". Corriere della Sera, which is based in Milan, said

many residents of the city were at their wits end. Prostitutes and transvestites were performing stripteases in the street", and customers were lining up in their cars.

La Stampa said the Milan move was a reflection of the fact that Italian cities are now so saturated with prostitutes that the authorities were willing to try anything. But it said the morality of the Milan city council was at odds with the centuries-old morality of the Catholic Church, which held that the sinner alone should be made to suffer for his

Di Pietro is target of police raids

FROM REATER

POLICE yesterday raided the homes and offices of Antonio Di Pietro, a former minister made famous by his judicial assault on corruption, known as the "Clean hands" investigation.

The Italian media reported that some 300 agents were involved in the raids, ordered by magistrates in the northern town of Brescia who are investigating alleged irregularities by Signor Di Pietro corruption magistrate.

lawyer. Massimo His Dinois, said that agents had eized legal documents from his home in the town of Curno, near Milan. The lawyer said Signor Di Pictro. who returned to Milan from Rome yesterday morning. was not present but added that his wife and two young children had been awakened by police.

Some 50 raids were carried out by special investigators. Signor Di Pietro's business ažso tar

Anglicans and Catholics reach 'impasse over Eve'

ANGLICAN officials insisted rday that Anglican-Catholic dialogue was "very much alive" despite deep differences over women priests during talks between the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury this

"The visit was marked by great personal warmth," said Canon Bruce Ruddock, head of the Anglican Centre in Rome. "We are going to review the stage we have reached, but are determined to continue.

But veteran Vatican watchers said they saw "no common ground whatsoever" over the ordination of women, and not much more on other issues. such as papal primacy, papalinfallibility and Marian doctrine (policy over the Virgin

Mary).
"Eve has divided Anglican and Catholics," said Marco Politi, the Vatican correspondent of La Repubblica and author of a recent book on the Pope. "The atmosphere was fraternal and cordial, and the

Yesterday, Dr Carey ended his four-day trip to Italy in Milan, where he attended vespers with Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Archbishop of Milan, who is a strong future candidate for the papacy and whose views on married priests and the role of women in the Church are more liberal than the Pope's.

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TRULY BREATHTAL

This week he reminded Dr Carey that as Pope, he held the "teaching office" of Saint Peter and added: "The path ahead may not be altogether clear to us, but we are here to recommit ourselves to following it". But the pontiff added that even if papal primacy was "modified", he could not accept a symbolic papacy lacking doctrinal authority.

patron saint of Millian, Dr Carey noted that next year Britain would celebrate the 1.400h amouversary of the death on long of Saint Colum-be and the arrival in Britain of Saint Augustine, The first Archbishop of Camerbury. But Vafican officials said the

30-year-old Anglican Catholic dialogue had reached an "im-

passe" over the ordination of

women priests Before the Archbishep left Rome for Mi-

lan, the Pope said the "obsta-

agreement on who would have

ultimate dectrinal teaching

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ALAN BENNETT

Carey: visit market "by great warmth" Thursday, But even Dr Carev admitted there had been no concrete results."

ading article, page 21

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■ OPINION

Hasn't Sir Denis Mahon played his huffing and puffing scene once too often?



■ THEATRE

and Cressida for a long and fussy evening at the Barbican THE

GOING OUT



ON MONDAY

Placido Domingo sings Wagner for the first time in Britain: read Rodney

risis in the fine art world! Panic in Whitehall! Proud museum directors faffing around like obsequious butlers. The Heritage Secretary firing off desperate letters to all available organs. The art establishment expressing itself aghast, darling. at the prospect of £25 million of prime-cut paintings slipping from

cultural whinge has spoken. Step forward, Sir Denis Mahon. The 86-year-old art historian and very rich bachelor announced this week that his collection of 61 Italian Baroque paintings — at present destined for top British galleries when he dies — will be removed if those galleries start to sell off their collections or charge for admissions. Even by Mahon's standards this was a virtuoso display of catamong-pigeons-putting, and the kneejerk reaction to his threat

Which, of course, is utterly bizarre. Don't get me wrong. I am

Staging Troilus for laughs makes



Alec McCowen in Chekhov, and the weekend's other top shows, surveyed in The Directory



Milnes's verdict

its grasp.
Yes, the Old Master of the must have made the old boy feel

You don't get the picture, Minister ers, though the heir to the vast Guirness Mahon banking fortune is hardly a pensioner in the usual sense of the word. Nor do I belittle the quality of Mahon's collection.

It's just that he has pulled this stunt so many times before. And gullible politicians fall for it every time! Those wretched Guercinos, Renis and Cortonas must have exercised more influence on gov-ernment policy than many Cabinet ministers. Let's recall some epic Mahon tantrums of the past quarter-century:

November 1973: Mahon threatens to leave his paintings to Ireland if museum charges are introduced in Britain. In a letter to The Times, he accuses the Heath Government of

August 1974: "I'll sell my art treasures abroad," Mahon tells the

about museum charges? Er, no. Mahon has been very hurt, poor lamb, by the Wilson Government's proposed wealth tax. "I had in-tended to bequeath the collection, my life's love, to the public," he snifts. "But if the Government are going to start bullying and victimising me, then by golly I'll sell it abroad first." Stirring words. May 1977: "Britain is in danger of losing Denis Mahon's collection," the Sunday Telegraph warns readers. This time it seems to be because of "the Government's atti-

from Mentmore Towers". November 1977: Obviously 1977 is Mahon's Year of Living India-nantly. Now he is angry about the Treasury meddling with the Nat-ional Land Fund — a relief agency for aristocrats with stately homes. Remarkably. Mahon does not

tude over the sale of art treasures



RICHARD MORRISON

threaten to take his paintings abroad this time. Perhaps his earlier threat is still pending. February 1979: Guess what's hot news? "Britain will lose one of the world's finest collections of Italian

paintings if the Government abolishes the system whereby works of art can be offered in lieu of taxes." the Telegraph reports, It's Doughry Den again! "I had intended the collection should go to the nation." he says. "But with these new proposals I shall have to instruct my executors to sell the pictures abroad." Luckily, a general election averts this catastrophe. July 1985: A familiar headline in

The Times: "Art collector's threat to sell pictures abroad forces tax change." Another victory for Guercino power! The paper re-ports that Mahon's "game of brinkmanship" has resulted in "virtually open-ended tax concessions" for people with lots of Old Masters. The arts world, or at least the posh end of it, is ecstatic. So is Sir David Piper, the Ashmolean Museum's director, "Mr Mahon

has the most gorgeous stamina,"

he gushes girlishly in The Times.
June 1986: Arise, Sir Denis! But if the Government hopes that a knighthood will induce Mahon to settle the fate of his collection, it is sadly mistaken. March 1988: Mahon is "again

contemplating changing his will",

The Times notes wearily. His paintings will be disbursed abroad, he threatens, because of plans to introduce de-accession" in national galleries. Two months later, all is smiles. Mahon has discovered an Arts Minister, Richard Luce, who is "approachable and listens to arguments".
February 1992: One of Mahon's

finest hours. He threatens to withdraw the offer of a loaned Guercino to the National Gallery unless the Government indemnifies owners of paintings lent to the nation. The new Arts Minister, Tim Renton, obligingly alters a

Bill that is already going through Parliament, Mahon attends a Commons select committee to savour his triumph.

And so to this week's events. Out has come the trump-card again and Mahon once more has Her Majesty's Government begging for mercy. Part of me hopes that Mrs Bottomley will tell Mahon exactly where he can stick his precious Guercinos, After all, it is mad that the mere ownership of a tasty art collection should apparently give somebody the clout to change government policy eight times in 25 years.

But the other part of me wishes this wily old bird several more decades of rude health and even ruder interference in the gover-nance of Britain, After all, he has proved one thing: politicians can-not be as philistine as we thought. Not if five Prime Ministers in succession turn cartwheels to get their hands on a load of paintings by artists of whom they have

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Funny? You must be joking

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on an over-fussy production of Shakespeare's Trojan tragedy

Troilus and Cressida is remarkable because it is so utterly original startling, deeply shocking and very, very funny." Ian Judge, that's who, director of this Royal Shakespeare Company production in his opening rehearsal talk which is reprinted in the programme. Not just funny, you will notice, not even very funny but very very funny, although he doe stop short of calling it sidesplitting, or subtitling it, with a riod to the bisexual

Pandarus, Cressida's Aunt. Judge is noted for liking to make an audience emerge from the theatre feeling good. And I have been made to feel that way myself after, for example, his stagings of The Wizard of Oz and The Comedy of Errors, both of them at this theatre.

On the other hand, watching his recent Scrooge was like drowning in jam. And his current production of Shakespeare's very, very funny (sic) sick joke would be an entirely pointless exercise were it not for a cluster of admirable performances, although these are not always where one As designed by John Gun-ter, Troy's wall is a mighty image of patched protection, brickwork mended with sheets of corrugated iron that lend their suggestion of fluted col-umn to the structure. Over the Greek camp hangs a great golden shield that turns blood-

> Troilus and Cressida Barbican

red when the battle rages, like an unhealthy sun. Helpful images, all of them, unlike the scene in the tent where Richard Dillane's hunky Diomedes woos Cressi-

da. From the top of the stage an immense cyclamen curtain sweeps down in the sort of curve beloved of Cecil Beaton in romantic mood. All very ironic, perhaps, but the situa tion itself, with its three onlookers making their sour or weeping comments, establishes this point with more

Economy is not a word Judge appears to consider when imagining a scene. His actors move restlessly around one another, going down steps in order to turn about and go up them again. There is certainly a lot of talk in the play more than usual in a version that seems to have cut nothing and we certainly need something to keep our minds alert. But perhaps he could have concentrated on the lan-वात्रहर?

economy.

The quality of performance varies. Victoria Hamilton eloquently traces Cressida's journey from being a girl capable of genuine feeling to one who. betrayed by her city, is no longer certain of what she feels except, that is, her own uncertainty.

Her closing cry of "Troilust" is an expression of true grief. Unlike the voice of Joseph Fiennes as Troilus, which breaks and gulps and catches breath, corkscrewing this way and that, until the sense of a speech flies off in all direc-

Clive Francis giggles a lot as a superficial Pandarus. The muscular young Greasians, as they are pronounced, have stepped from the pages of an old Physique Pictorial but speak with darity, Philip Voss's magisterial Ulysses particularly so.

On the opposing side Louis Hilyer's Hector stands out well. But the evening as a whole is long — and very, very





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No fear of music

THE name Talking Heads has always been synonymous with their eccentric front man David Byrne, even though their actual sounds relied on the rhythms of bassist Tina Weymouth, drummer Chris Frantz and keyboard player Jerry Harrison.

Renaming themselves the Heads, Weymouth, Frantz and Harrison recently recorded an album, which they tellingly called No Talking Just Head, and got round the lead singer problem by re-cruiting a bunch of guest vocalists, including Shaun Ryder, Debbie Harry, Michael Hutchence, Richard Hell and Johnette Napolitano, to write lyrics for finished backing tracks. Shaun Ryder's Don't Take My Kindness for Weakness, a recent single, was particularly inspired, and the results convinced the Heads to

start playing live again. To do so, they have added extra guitarist Blast Murray upgraded Concrete and Blonde's Napolitano from quest vocalist to lead singer. She has a distinctive voice that frequently rose into a Courtney Love-style holler but she tempered it to suit the style of the various missing guests. Gordon |Gano of the Violent Fennmesi can't be with us tonight, so I'll just do my best Gordon for you," she joked

POP

The Heads Hanover Grand, Wi

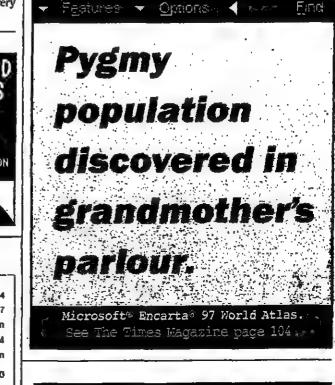
before singing the melodic

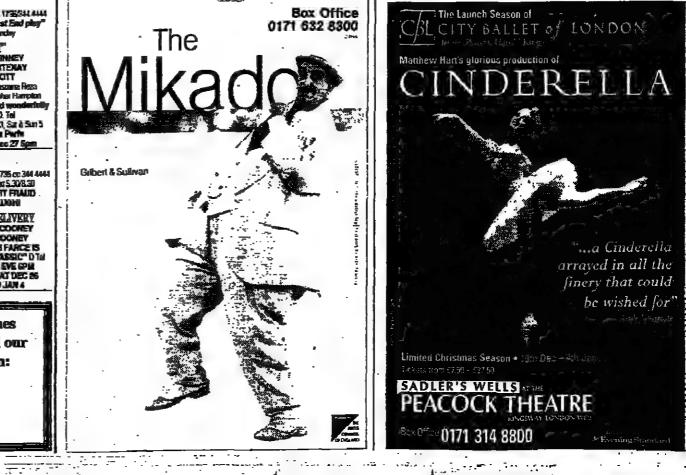
Only The Lonely. Gano was not the only guest who could not make it: neither Ryder nor Hutchence put in an appearance. Luckily, Napolitano managed to keep the crowd entertained - her androgynous figure proving a godsend when it came to. dancing around Byrne-style.

during the Talking Heads song, Take Me To The River. Of all the band, it was Weymouth who most looked as if she was revelling in her newfound freedom, playing off Napolitano and clearly enjoying singing with another woman on the album's title track, Punk Lolita. They even. finished off with Psycho Killer and did a couple of encores. which paid tribute to their various solo careers, most notably Tom Tom Club's

Wordy Rappinghood. Although this was more of a celebration of the Heads' past than a take on their future, it: was enough to give the crowd what they had come for.

ANN SCANLON





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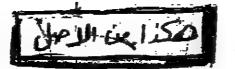
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The Georgian rules of our most venerable artistic institution make it too amateurish for the big league, says Richard Morrison

up in the faces of the Royal Academy's membership yesterday was sudden but gruesomely predictable. The allegations of financial irregularities, of "borrowing" from the pension fund, of mysterious gaps in the annual accounts, are worrying enough. This is a 228-year-old institution with a list of benefactors headed by the Oueen, where some of Britain's most eminent painters, sculptors and architects are the members. and where the honorary fellows include just about every famous

cultural figure in the land. But even if the accusations prove to be temporary blemishes that are already being erased - as the RA was claiming yesterday - there are other huge problems inherent in the very structure of the venerable institution in Piccadilly. As with the British Museum, which was recently revealed to have not a single qualified accountant among its staff of nearly 1,200, the RA gives

Royal Academicians in distress

elderly and unworldly people who have never learnt about survival in the current cut-throat arts world.

It is effectively now two institutions in one. First, it is a grandly appointed club for artists, deeply conscious of an illustrious tradition stretching back to Sir Joshua Reynolds; and secondly it is a venue for international shows. The academicians' historic mission to maintain artistic standards and lead public taste has long been undermined by the annual, depressing reality of the mediocre paintings usually produced for the now notorious (but still money-spinning) Summer Exhibition.

In the past two decades, however, under the often inspired leadership of its exhibitions secretary. Norman Rosenthal, the RA has made huge efforts to compete in the "blockbuster" field. When these succeeded, as with the groundbreaking Genius of Venice exhibition or the always-popular shows of Impressionists, they won critical acclaim, generous sponsorship and huge crowds.

Financed entirely by private means, for the RA receives no public funds, these shows achieved what the lavishly subsidised British galleries often could not they brought the RA into a "magic circle" of top international galleries, which were willing to share the cost, as well as enjoying the prestige, of mounting crowd-pull-ing displays. Rosenthal, who is married to a serior figure at the Prado Museum in Madrid, was the ideal man to oversee this highprofile, high-risk operation.

cially if not artistically, such shows left ominous holes in the RA's finances. An exhibition of 20thcentury American art ran to a £600,000 deficit. Half a million people were expected for last year's gigantic Africa exhibition: only half that number turned up, Given that this single show cost EL5 million to mount, one can quickly see how a

£3 million deficit could build up. These big international exhibitions also depend on equally big sponsors, especially when the host organisation has no public subsidy. But in Britain corporate arts spons orship, on which so many hopes were pinned in the early 1980s, has declined alarmingly. And in London - with its two opera houses, nine or ten great museums and four symphony orchestras - the sponsorship is hot.

At one time the RA seemed to be doing well. But a recent spate of shows "failing to happen", combined with the generally disappointing impression left by the exhibitions that did, suggests that it has now fallen behind in the dash for cash. And as Britain's major arts institutions tussle for the El billion or so of "matching" private funding that the Government requires to make their lottery projects viable, the pressure to find donors

becomes ever greater. So where does the Academy go from here? The answer is surely that it must decide what its function is to be in the 21st century, and then cut its cloth, or possibly its staff, accordingly. As with many of Britain's big cultural organ-

RA have been expansionist in spirit. Not only have there been ambitious exhibitions and building projects (the Sackler Galleries and the plan for the RA to take over the nearby Museum of Mankind), but also such unsung but laudable programmes as the "Outreach" project to encourage good teaching of the visual arts in schools.

If it is to continue down this road, the Academy must put in place a management that is utterly professional from top to toe. (Again, the parallel with the British Museum is uncanny.) That may mean the end of a governing body whose rules are still essentially those laid down

by George IIL

Most of the executives now in day-to-day control of the RA - led

don - would probably welcome such a change. But it would not be achieved without a fight. Even the mild attempts earlier this year to jazz up the Summer Exhibition, and Mr Gordon's project to open more of the RA's private rooms for catering and exhibition space, have aroused ire. Nevertheless, it may now be a case of change or die.

In the meantime, what of that deficit? At £3 million, it is serious but hardly life-threatening. Most of Britain's opera houses, major thearres and orchestras can boast something similar at present. The RA's last great cash crisis. in 1962. was solved, perhaps un-satisfactorily, by the sale of the Leonardo Cartoon. If the bankers really are intent on calling in the debts, the Academy has an astonishing range of assets on which to draw, from the Michelangelo Madonna (conservative estimate: £40 million) downwards. But selling the family silver will solve nothing if the RA can't decide what sort of a

Is literary London really so full of spite? Derwent May doubts it

Confessions of a reviewer

erary editor of The Listener and preparing my first special books number of the year, I went up to Oxford. On a back wall of All Souls I saw a big painted slogan: "No to Spring Books". I soon realised that it was in fact an antiapartheid slogan, "No to Springboks", but it was a nasty moment.

However, the slogan I thought I saw might well have been daubed there by Amanda Craig. who has written a novel. A Vicious Circle, which has this week been hailed as a work of genius by A.N. Wilson, the novelist and literary editor of the Evening Standard. It consists mainly of a ferocious attack on the world of book reviewers.

Two of its main characters are young literary journalists, who are supposed to be representative figures, and who recognise in themselves and others only two motives: - the currying of favour and the instilling of fear. A third character is a waitress who teaches herself to become a vicious reviewer out of revenge when she is ditched by a literary journalist, and is so carried away that her review destroys a novel by her best friend.

Any concern for truth and justice is utterly invisible in this portrait of the literary world. In fact, one reviewer. David Sexton, thought he had been caricatured in the novel and objected, and Miss Craig was compelled to rewrite part of the book and to change publishers.

Miss Craig's picture does not show the literary world as I know it. When R.H.S. Crossman was Editor of the New Statesman and wanted a trivial book reviewed for his own political purposes, I remember his literary editor resisting until Crossman cried out in exasperation: "The trouble with you literary editors is that you're all virgins!" Arthur Crook, when he edited The Times Literary Supplement in the days of anonymous reviewing, used to make sure he knew all about the love affairs and rivalries of his contributors, in order to keep spite and log-rolling out of his pages. "I went to publishers' parties just to find out who hated each other," he told me. (Of course, it made quite an enjoyable life for him.)

Rather different matters worry literary editors, such as finding people who can write a genuinely good novel review. That is not as easy as Miss Craig makes it sound. Novel reviews generally have to be done in a very restricted number of words. You have to tell the reader some of the plot, or your comments hang in mid-air. But once you tell

anything else. So somehow you have to weave your judgments into your precis of the story. It is worse than writing a haiku - it is like writing a bonzai haiku.

There are also unexpected prob-lems. I once failed to persuade Hugh Trevor-Roper to review any of a large number of history books, because at the time, he said, he could not "read anything except the most beautiful prose". Very reasonable, I thought; but I had to find another good reviewer.

Of course, there is a lot of fierce reviewing in newspapers, but that is not in itself in any way discredit-able. David Sexton himself would not deny that he is a fierce reviewer. but his criticisms proceed from a clear set of values: a love of the subtle and truthful, a hatred of pretension and sentimentality. He need not even have protested, in my view, because his writing speaks for itself. Some of the best reviewing is found when two whole schools of taste come into conflict, with figures such as Alexander Pope or F.R. Leavis hovering above like Baroque gods of the battlefield.

Prospective authors should not be daunted by Miss Craig's vision of the world into which their books will be launched. London offers an incomparably wide range of commentary on new books. A notable book may receive Il thoughtful reviews over one long weekend, in the five daily broadsheets, the four Sunday broadsheets, the Spectator - and, yes, the Evening Standard, although Andrew Wilson's ecstatic review of Miss Craig's novel suggests he has strange doubts about his own books pages. Then there is the broad hinterland of the TLS, the London Review of Books, the New Statesman, numerous other weeklies and the middle-market and regional press. A very substantial

sleving of books goes on in Britain. Slackness and preoccupation with their own writing, rather than venality, is most often the temptation of literary editors. I recently heard of one literary editor of The Spectator who was also a poet and who rang up a writer urgently asking him to review a book that he had already written about in the

Spectator three weeks before. Early in his career, nearly every literary editor gives a book out of kindness to some pleading free-lance, only to find he cannot print the man's review and has made him even more miserable than he was before. Then another hopeful face looks round his office door. and he falls into the trap again.

The simple art of lunching

It was about one o'clock in the afternoon when the PM's long goodbye

began ...

here's some days on the Street that it seems things can't get no better. The sky can't get no bluer and the Schmilers and you say, "Schmiler, can you remember a day when the powers-that-be stuffed their pri-vates so completely in the salami slicer?" And Schmiler says. "Nope. And they're turning the handle like a Riga organ-grinder." He pours me a Daniels. "So how you see it unfolding?" he asks.
Now this is no two-bit Chicago

sting. This is a class operation, Park Lane, the real McCoy. For reasons not immediately apparent, Corporation wants the frighteners on John Major. It decides to get his sidekick the Chancellor to spit beans on him. The Corporation boss is owner of a Notting Hill speakeasy, but he has his eye on a Mayfair place called Nico at 90. He tells the boys always to eat there, so they pick it as their venue. This is despite it being home to the most expensive schmoozers in town. How Nico has the sphericals to charge a hundred bucks for a plate of gnocchi beats me. The boss has a moaner called Fingers Birt who forks out the dough like the stuff is ants in his pants.

This is how it is. The guys stake out the joint. Oakley will take the table by the window. Frank "Free-Lunch" Dobson is with him and will be crucial in the drama. Two young guys, Sopel and Mardell, are given their big break. They must get the property into Nico's. onto a banquette line-of-sight with Dobson, and pour wine down him til he spills the story. This may not be easy. I can remember a time on the Street when chancellors would no more lunch with reporters than they would risk a night in a Reno

I tell you, two bottles of Nico's best Barolo and the guys can't get the property to shut up. He says Major is ratting on him. He may resign. Then he blurts some crap about loaded boomerangs with high explosives and a guy named Mawhinney with kids and scooters on the lawn. These guys are momma's boys and don't like this

Next day Sopel does the usual thank you for the Chancellor having honoured him with lunch. He slides the blade into Major with a "Friends of the Chancellor hir



Show of unity at the Tory conference in October; but the Downing Street neighbours have fallen out after one briefing too many

back at the Prime Minister today .. "There are the usual denials and a few greenhorns choke on their toothpicks at Sopel hitting paydirt like this. Then comes the sting. Dobson rings his mob and declares it was not "friends of the Chancellor" at all. It was the living. breathing real thing. The denials are a fraud. He saw it all at Nico's that day, may God, Oakley and half the damned British Broadcast ing Corporation be his witness. This gets Sopel off what we professionals call an ethical hook. I cannot tell a lie, he says. It was me and Mardell and the aforesaid

the explosion right across town. The property denies it again. He swears he'll always be Major's buddy like there was a gun in his neck. He and the Irish guy Mawhinney go down to Lenny the Lawyer and get an affidavit that they have been courting since they shared wet nurses back in '42.

property in person. You could hear

What a week for the boys. The fact is the whole sting has gone smoother than a blonde on Sunset Strip. We reckon the property is shortly for a walk off London Bridge with concrete boots. This is sad since the guys admired his way with pollo cacciatore. As for Major, the horse manure has hit the punkah. His mob is in uproar and wants blood. The boss is so pleased he may make Nico the Corporation's canteen manager. This is odd since he's that already.

feel genuinely sorry for John Major. He is vulnerable to every accident. Last April he reached an agreement with his two most powerful ministers on a form of words about Europe that would carry the Tories through the

next election. This was the now famous "wait and see how talks turn out" policy. It was confirmed by the full Cabinet and set before the party conference at Bournemouth last October.

The conference agreed. It not only agreed, but gave standing ovations to the Chancellor and Foreign Secretary when they re-peated the line. "Wait and see" appeared to be a policy on which the divided party could stand either united or at best silent. The electorate did not rate Europe as an especially important issue. It was time for the smack of firm compromise. If anyone did not like it, they could leave. David Heathcoat-Amory was the only minister to take up the offer.

Politics never stays still. One day's certainty is tomorrow's pious hope, and the next day seems wholly implausible. For the parliamentary Conservative Party, a "wait and see" policy on the single currency is becoming wholly im-plausible. Even Tony Markow, the eccentric Member for Northamp-ton, sounds ominously reasonable in asking how a party can go into an election saying it has no view on a matter that has been debated ad nauseam. The promise of a later

referendum is not enough. By last month, a growing number of Mr Major's colleagues felt that "wait and see" was unlikely to

last until April. The pressure was great. Should it be revived or killed off? This was the question that Mr Major asked his friends and others two weeks ago. His aides let it be known that he might change "wait and see" to "not in the coming. Parliament", or even to personal opposition. There was a flurry of covert briefing. Downing Street cannot deny this. I heard it with my own cars and from many sources The story broke in Monday's Daily Telegraph.

I was amazed. Surely this was-

wobble just when steadiness was most needed. It would also undermine the April agreement, The gauntiet thrown down to Mr Major's two heavyweight colleagues was blatant. Mr. Heseltine and Mr. Clarke had often been bloodied in battle under Mr Major, but they carried their lances to the end. They were masters of the "friend". the intermediary, the call to the editor, the after-hours drink, the: precision lunch. To both of them the April deal was sacrosanct. It sealed their backing for Mr Major during last year's leadership crisis. Certainly he was under pressure from the ranks to end "wait and see". He should resist such

Had the briefing remained covert. I suppose the operation could have been quietly concluded. Mr Major privately mooted a change. Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine said no. Mr Major admitted defeat in the Commons on Tuesday. A serious question would have been asked and answered within the confines of the club. The privacy of British political reporting would have performed its proxy for open democracy. Behind an arras of mendacity, a debate would have been held and resolved.

The arras was torn aside chez Nico. Revealed was a senior minister threatening his boss and abusing his party chairman to two reporters, in the sight if not the hearing of witnesses. He thought he was protected by "lobby rules". which have become a licence to abadmouth colleagues without fear of attribution and thus retribution. Revealed too were reporters giving the public what they knew to be a distorted story and only coming dean when their cover was blown. As for the source of the Daily Telegraph's revelation of Mr Major's wobbie, it remains wholly obscure. Readers and listeners should assume that the phrase "friends of" is lobbyspeak for the person himself.

Mr Major may have become a political Houdini of Wilsonian longevity, but as I write this I cannot see his way out of this predicament. His Commons maiority has now effectively gone. He surely cannot keep his two senior colleagues with him and meet the antagonism to the "wait and see" policy, that is welling up in the Conservative Party. Perhaps Christmas will come to his aid. Perhaps a war or a sex scandal or a royal marriage will miraculously appear between him and fate's cascading avalanche.

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At least for the time being, he might adhere to a humble principle of his predecessors. All communication between the Cabinet and the media should be left to qualified government press officers. They may have their limitations. They may not feed public frenzy on radio as Cabinet ministers seem to do. But they could not laind the Government in a worse mess than ministe-rial do-it-yourself. Nor do they eat

By a whisker

ALARMING NEWS has come in from the island of Symi, the Dodecanese jewel renowned for its Greek sponges, where Tony Banks, Labour's forthright Member for Newham North West enjoys his summer holidays.

Banks, animal lover and vicepresident of the Cats Protection



Banks: the animal's friend

League, has been sponsoring an elderly tom on the island. He gives money to one of the locals to feed and care for him, and has spent a couple of hundred pounds on the beast over the years. But on the island, they say the

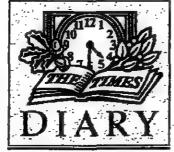
authorities in a recent cull of cats. In the past, the officials have conducted neutering programmes to curb the cat population, but Banks was unaware of his cat's fate and he is investigating. "He was always a rather pleasant old tom," said Banks yesterday.

old tom has been killed by local

"well endowed with a snub nose just like an MP I could name. The Greek authorities have become more aware of the sensitivity of our attitudes to cats, so I hope the reports are untrue."

Banks does concede, however, that the local chap he's been paying to look after moggie might not be spending all the cash in the desired manner: "I have noticed that, ever since I started giving him the money, his ouzos have

■ Earlier this year, Euro-sceptic Tories formed a new pressure group which they named Cafe



Society, an acronym for Conserva-tives Against a Federal Europe. In response, the rebels may soon face opposition from a body of Conservative Europhiles, considering establishing Pro-European Union Brits, or Pub.

Team player

FORGET the rows over the single currency. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor at the hub of the Government's most recent fiasco, has more important things to worry about Nottingham Forest, his local football club, is languishing at the bottom of the Premiership. "There is quite enough talent for them to be much higher up the table," he ventures in the Notting-

ham Evening Post.

and says that pressure of work has forced him to miss most recent matches. The few he has seen this season have been even worse than the Government's performance. "I went to West Ham by getting

myself paired with an Opposition MP. They were slaughtered," he said. He believes that the manager Frank Clark can lift the side, but he remains the thrifty Chancellor down to his Hush Puppy laces, and rules out spending on transfer fees: I don't think you should assume that an injection of money solves everyone's problems."

• Rehearsais are all the sadder among the blue-rinses of the Back Choir after the announcement that the Duchess of Kent is suffering from ME. She is a veteran of the choir, taking part in almost all their concerts. Sir David Willcocks, the 76-year-old musical director, suggests that the Duchess should continue the warbling: "I'm not a medical man, but music can be greatly uplifting to the soul."

No entree

ANGRY voices upset the whispering calm of Wilton's restaurant in Jermyn Street earlier this week as Lord Gowrie found himself denied Clarke admits to being "very his usual table. He had come in worried" by Forest's performance, with two young women on his arm.

only to be told that there had been a confusion over his booking. Not used to such treatment. Gowrie began to make a scene at the bar. Eventually, the furious peer left without his lunch.

 Placido Domingo's Covent Gar-den debut in a Wagner opera last night was not without its problems for the Royal Opera. As Siegmund in Die Walkure, he needed a costar after Anne Evans pulled out on doctor's orders from playing Sieglinde. Experienced Wagnerian Nadine Secunde was approached

"I wish to report my neighbours for making · a maistance"

was softened to prior the Country of the Surbiton was softened to prior the Edinburgh.

and signed up, according to some sources. Covent Garden denies that she was ruled out by Placido. claiming that she was too busy. Whatever the case, the American Karen Huffstodt stepped in ably.

All out

MORE TROUBLE for England's beleaguered cricket side in Mashonaland. John Emburey, the assisrant coach, has withdrawn his hyperbolic assertion on Radio 4 vesterday that The Times reporter Simon Wilde was an hour late and missed the highlights of England's pathetic performance - which was taken as a suggestion that Wilde's critical report was unreliable.

It was an exaggeration and an off-the-cuff remark. I've since spoken with the reporter concerned about it. I understand that he was in fact five minutes late." Wilde was tardy because the lifts in his hotel were not working, and he was less than impressed with Emburey's bouncer, which caused him domestic strife — the first person to phone him was his wife. "Where have you been?" she demanded.

OED

CHRISTMAS has been looking difficult for Jessica Lange, the



award-winning American actress who makes her debut on the West End stage later this month at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, in A Streetcar Named Desire.

Since the press night is on December 30, she thought she would spend Christmas in London with her two children and their father, the writer and actor Sam Shepard. Shepard, however, refuses to fly. "So he's coming over slowly on the QE2," says a friend. "He'll get to Southampton just in time for Christmas.



DOWN AMONG THE TORIES

Anger, gloom and barely a glimmer of seasonal cheer

In these last days before election year, the has said twice recently that he would not Tory party presents a cracked and crumbling face to the nation. Yesterday Sir John. Gorst marked a further step on the march towards minority government at West-minster. But Sir John is merely one among many, one day's representative of the disappointed, the frustrated, the distrustful and the self-seeking, who fill the Conservatives' ranks. Tomorrow's spotlight will easily find a different MP, one driven mad by Downing Street doubts on Europe, anxious for old battles on VAT or simply keen to see his or her name in a headline.

A se to a fill of the second

The cold season of discontent has come early. This is not predominantly an outside threat, like the one that James Callaghan faced from the unions. This discontent is deepest on Mr Major's own benches, round his own Cabinet table, among his own activists. The governing party has become a

collapsing party,
It need not have been thus. Mr. Major enraged his MPs by refusing to allow them a debate on a single currency; he was then rescued by his Chancellor, who found in Budget week that he was doubly invaluable to his leader. Mystery still surrounds the rext stumbling step. If the Prime Minister or his aides deliberately planted the story in Monday's Daily Telegraph that he wanted to rule out joining a single currency during the next Parliament, this was "kite-flying" of unparalleled folly. One gust of wind tore the string from his hands. If the Telegraph story occurred through the confusion or credulity of journalists, Mr Major should have tackled Kenneth Clarke before Kenneth

Clarke tackled him. The Prime Minister could have regained control. He could have reiterated the wait and see" policy for now, while refusing to answer hypothetical questions about the future. Instead he allowed a result which simultaneously both drew attention to his weakness and infuriated the majority of his MPs and party workers. Mr Major is left once more in search of new escape routes.

The convergence criteria for EMU still constitute a possible exit. Kenneth Clarke want to join a single currency whose other members had fudged their economic figures. Since fudge is all that we can expect from the Euro-negotiators, Chancellor Clarke ought reasonably to be persuaded, between now and polling day, that Britain should stay out for now on economic grounds:

If no change can be achieved, Mr Major will go into an election - which may now be sooner than he wants - with an equivocal policy at the top and anarchy below. MPs are vigorously planning freelance political careers, making up their own mini-manifes-tos so that their election addresses include a commitment to vote against Britain joining EMU. There is even the prospect of some ministers taking such a step. The election would then risk looking like the "soldier's battle" at Inkerman, when the fog was so dense, the command so calamitous and the cry of each infantryman was of every man for himself.

And that would now be a "good" outcome for Mr Major. Under a "bad" outcome. Cabinet right-wingers, furious that Mr Clarke and Michael Heseltine have been able to blackmail the Prime Minister, will ask why this small minority should have a free run. These sceptics may even threaten to resign themselves if they are not allowed a vote in Cabinet on whether to rule out joining the single currency. The fatal split, so often predicted for after the election, could yet happen before.

Luckily for Mr Major, Christmas is coming and there are no important votes in the Commons until the New Year. By January, though, the Ulster Unionist leaders will be looking more carefully at their calendars. They may continue to support the Government in the hope that a Tory recovery could deliver them their yearnedfor hung Parliament. On this week's record, however, they may believe that a Labour majority is a certainty. If so, they could now win credit for delivering the general election that Labour wants to fight while its opponents are down.

WHEN IN ROME

Carey's visit may have been more valuable than it appeared

John Paul II received his guest with appropriate couriesy and all due pomp, he adopted a somewhat uncompromising tone. He stressed his unique role and special obligation as "the successor of St Peter" to pronounce on all doctrinal questions. While His Holiness acknowledged a "new spirit of co-operation" between members of the two faiths, he also took the chance offered by their "common declaration" to denounce the ordination of women priests as the chief obstacle to further ecumenicalism.

This trip, however, had wider objectives than surviving formal meetings with the Pope. When he arrived in Rome four years ago on a private tour, Dr Carey, then fresh in office and barely familiar with his own post, arrived with a small entourage and very limited ambitions. His impact was tarnished in advance by his own rather. undiplomatic remarks about the papal position on birth control.

By contrast, on this occasion he has been surrounded by what may be the most highcalibre delegation ever led abroad by an Archbishop of Canterbury. That team has engaged in intensive discussions with the wider hierarchy of the Vatican. Deliberations between the two Churches have rarely been more intensive. Although conducted away from the public glare, such ties will come into their own if a future Pope wanted to initiate a more accommodating relationship with Anglicans. That pontiff might well be Carlo Maria Martini, Archbishop of Milan, with whom Dr Carey held convivial

At first glance the Archbishop of Canterbury talks yesterday. Their dialogue reflects the made very little progress in his first official Church of England's objective of broadening. s with the Koman Catholic Chinci rather than concentrating exclusively on the personal chemistry between the respective spiritual leaders. Any rewards for these forts will not come for some time.

> There are also clear limits to the progress that can be made towards unity between the Anglican and Roman Catholic traditions. The differences between the two in both theological terms and in church governance are substantial. The ordination of women may reinforce those distinctions but it did not create them. Even in the implausible -circumstance that the Church of England reversed its stand on the female priesthood, reunification with Rome would not follow. That reality was acknowledged by the Anglican Church when it embraced the Porvoo Agreement with Lutherans last month.

None of this suggests that the Archbishoo's efforts are fixile. Ecomenicalism is about moving Christians closer together and enhancing mutual understanding, not necessarily preparing for merger. The separate and distinctive features of Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism, if recognised and respected, can be a force that strengthens God's word. The "common declaration" issued by Archbishop Carey and the Pope encourages their followers that "whenever they are able to give united witness to the Gospel they must do so, for our divisions obscure the Gospel message of reconciliation and hope." Jesus sought one universal Church but not necessarily a uniform institution. The prospect for that co-operation has been quietly enhanced by Dr Carey.

THE MASHONALAND QUESTION

Four Whitehall ways to look at a seven-wicket defeat

PM/Mash./Ather./Classified/7.xii.96). You have asked, Prime Minister, for a full and urgent report on the Mashonaland Question, namely the England cricket team's recent seven-wicket defeat at the hands of that distant region's eleven. Please find attached a list of our observations.

1. Reach for The Times Atlas. Mashonaland is the northern half of Zimbabwe, formerly Rhodesia, bordered on the east by the Portuguese-speaking land of Mozambique. It is watered by the rivers Ummati and Umfuli, and is 109,232 square kilometres in size. (Footnote: although instructive on geography, this approach sheds little light on England's mortifying debacle.)

2. Look on what is vulgarly called "the bright side". The Mashonaland cricket team is the best in Zimbabwe (which has a twoteam national cricket championship). A loss to them is, arguably, not quite the disaster that some of the more overheated cricket correspondents are saying it is. It is not as if Michael Atherton's men have lost to Matabeleland (refer to aforementioned atlas once more). Now that, truly, would be time to deploy our emergency bowling machine.

3. Adopt a Machiavellian approach for the next tour. Since Mashonaland's main players are all tobacco farmers, make sure that England's next visit is smack in the middle of Zimbabwe's tobacco harvest. We would

then face a substitute team composed mainly of chicken farmers and maizegrowers, which, we are informed by our High Commission in Harare (formerly Salisbury), would be a much less daunting task for our men in white flannels. (Talking point: Zimbabwe's tobacco is rather good because its seedlings are thinly mulched and germinated outdoors in cold frames.)

4. Send a prime ministerial rocket to Mr Atherton (forgetting for the moment that you sympathise with his beleaguered position, and that you share with him a talent for weaving tapestries of crisis from the barest threads). England are still a bit rusty," said Mr Atherion after the defeat. We think that he should be told that this is poppycock. Whereas that may once have served as a genuine excuse for our sepia-tinted teams of old, which sauntered for months in steamships to tours in distant parts, modern cricketers must not be allowed to invoke such arguments. Have they not heard of "pre-season training"? Even our political parties engage in that, with their "pre-

season" conferences in seaside places. Mr Atherton has a poor back. We suggest, also, that he has a poor attitude. You must tell him so, with the full face of your prime ministerial bat. This is much more important than EMU, so please do not mince words as you usually do. (End memo).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London Et 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Homosexuality as a political issue

From Sir Ian McKellen

Sir, in his latest outburst against homosexuals, Dr Adrian Rogers, prospective parliamentary candidate in Exeter (letter, December 4), has three odd ideas. He implies that we gays are unfitted to be Members of Parliament. He "regrets deeply" open discussion about sexuality amongst the young (what he terms "the campaign to deceive a generation of young people that homosexuality is normal.". And he would certainly suppress any

"display" of homosexuality.

What has he to complain of? Only two Members of the Commons say that they are gay. Section 28 of the 1988 Local Government Act discourages state school teachers from educating their pupils in this matter. Declaring (and thereby "displaying") one's homosexuality can be legal grounds for dismissal from employment in the United Kingdom.

Dr Rogers is not the first Christian to confuse a personal concept of sin with public criminal law. Yet, with harsh laws on his side, as well as the ancient bias of his religion, why does he feel he is the one person who is pre-pared to speak publicly for "a silent

and cowed majority ?
With such a whiff of paranois in the election air, perhaps it is not, after all, Dr Roger's gay rival at the polls who is unfitted to be Member of Parliament for Exeter.

IAN McKELLEN c/o ICM, Oxford House, 76 Oxford Street, WI. December 4.

From Mr Michael Grandage

Sir. Dr Adrian Rogers writes that he would suppress any "display" of ho-

A doctor who is also a Christian might be expected to understand that a lifetime of lying about one's sexual-ity is bad for the health and for the

A prospective parliamentary candidate might also realise that it is bad for the nation's life, in that honesty becomes a victim of discrimination and prejudice.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GRANDAGE. 3'Brewster Road, Elo. December 4.

From the Executive Director of Stonewall

Sir, Dr Rogers is entitled to his views, however distasteful or indeed peculiar. But he goes too far when he claims that he is "far more tolerant of other persons" views than the homosexual

lobby is" of people like himself.

No one is calling for Dr Rogers to be criminalised for airing his views. But he himself said, only last month in an interview on Radio 5, that if he had his way "there would be no gay clubs, no book shops, no contact organisations. They would be proscribed by law."

Yours sincerely ANGELA MASON. Executive Director, Stonewall, 16 Clerkenwell Close, EC1.

From the President of the Exeter Conservative Association

Sir. Dr Rogers was adopted as our prospective parliamentary candidate by a democratic meeting, open to all Exeter Conservative Association members. He was selected in the full knowledge of all his opinions and previous political activities, including

those on homosexuality. As of this date neither I nor the association office has received any call. from either the public or our mem-bers, for the deselection of our prospective candidate. He will not be deselected, and has the full backing of the Exeter Conservative Association.

Dr Rogers is a convenient bogeyman for the homosexual lobby to hate. Yours sincerely, PERCY EVERSON.

President. Exeter Conservative Association. 47a Magdalen Road, Exeter, Devon. December 6.

From Mr Stephen Twigg

Sir, Surely, we have progressed beyand the point where serious political opinion can suggest that it is unacceptable for someone to be an MP simply because they are openly gay.

There are increasing numbers of us - in all parties -- standing for Parliament and open about the fact that we are lesbian or gay. This is not in order to create an issue but because we want to be open and honest with the electorate.

Yours faithfully, STEPHEN TWIGG (Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Enfield Southgate), c/o Fabian Society. II Dartmouth Street, SWI,

From Mr Rikki Cleeve

Sir, It was most thoughtful of Dr Rogers and Mr Mike Carter to write and confirm Matthew Parris's article of December 2.

I was initially not totally convinced by it, but now I see how right Mr Parris is.

Yours faithfully. RICK CLEEVE, 15 Eton Hall. Eton College Road, NW3. December 4.

Advent hymns, ancient v modern

From the Reverend Michael Crowther-Green

Sir, I thank Roger Scruton for his article, "Silent night of our hymns" (November 30) and agree with him

The musical culture . . . which has been the greatest source of joy to me and my contem-poraries is now dormant, surfacing for a week or so each Christmas, but too feeble to stay awake beyond Boxing Day.

I am glad he included Advent hymns and carols, for they too are a source of great inspiration. Many are translations from Greek or Latin and are memorable for the succinct way in which they introduce themes of hope, joy and justice — and of judgment (not a popular theme nowadays). Advent has been lost in the commercialisation of this season and the loss of its message distorts what follows,

The great festivals of the Christian year point to God and his initiative: there is a hunger and thirst to hear again that Good News. I regret that too many modern songs are so human-centred as to suggest that we are losing some of our cosmic vision. Without vision, the people perish. Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL CROWTHER-GREEN. 8 Egerton Road, Reading, Berkshire.

From the Reverend Alan Haine

Sir. The new hymns in Mission Praise, so despised by Roger Scruton, are frequently used in tandem with the Methodist Church's own hymn book. They fulfil a genuine need amongst many Methodist worship-pers to address the Almighty in a style which they find natural to them.

includes all the classic hymns which Scruton cites, with the exception of Blake's Jerusalem (personally, I can well do without it: as has been rightly said, its first verse is nothing but a series of questions all expecting the answer "No"). Mission Praise retains Parry's tune, but sets it to some modern words; it also outdoes the 1950 edition of Hymns Ancient and Modern in that it includes the Vaughan Williams tune to Come down, O Love

The current full edition of the book

In Matthew xiii, 52, Jesus suggests that the scribe properly trained for the kingdom of heaven is one "who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old". In hymnody and in liturgy we need to hallow the traditional. which still enshrines our faith, but to leave room also for the new.

Yours faithfully, ALAN HAINÉ, The Manse, Middlefield Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. December 1.

From Mr G. C. Steele

Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Sir, This Christmas, according to Mission Praise, we can sing "O come all you faithful", an emasculated version of Once in royal David's city (no more "all in white shall wait around") and, worst of all, the seraph in verse 4 of While shepherds watched is replaced by a mere angel.

Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour!

Yours faithfully. G. C. STEELE, 33 Bounds Oak Way, Southborough,

dence shows that those in socio-

economic groups Cl and C2 play the

Lottery policy

From the Secretary of State for National Heritage

Sir. Your leading article on the National Lottery, "Cunningham's number" (December 3), was misleading in two key aspects. You assert that our intention is that

when the Millennium Fund ends, its money will be redistributed among the other four good causes. That is not so. The Government has already announced innovative plans for the use of the millennium good cause money in the next century.

Michael Heseltine told the Conservative Party conference on October 10 that we will create a new information and communication technology fund. designed to enrich our lives with information of every sort to everybody" -- probably the most exciting IT initiative this country has ever seen.

You charge that the lottery is a regressive tax. On the contrary, evimost, with the unemployed playing the least. And as for "the poor paying for the playthings of the rich", the facts show that small local projects up and down the country have been the main beneficiarles of the lottery, with over 50 per cent (5,628) of awards for projects of less than £50,000. Less than 3 per cent of awards are for projects of over £1 million. The policy of the Labour Party to-

wards the lottery is based more on ideological spite than reasoned or coherent argument. It would make a refreshing change if the Opposition for once accepted this success story rather than proposing to threaten these achievements. Unlike Labour, we will not raid the nation's lottery to fund frontline public spending programmes.

Yours faithfully, VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, House of Commons. December 4.

Brunel auction

From Mr Michael M. Chrimes

Sir. The success of the sale of Bruneliana at Christie's (report, November 30) has serious implications for our national heritage.

The surviving documentary record of the Bruneis' activities is virtually complete (whilst that of Isambard Kingdom's chief rivals, Robert Stephenson and Joseph Locke, is fragmentary), and the decision by a descendant to sell a share of the family heritage could have offered an opportunity to bring almost all these papers together again, for the first time in perhaps a century.

Instead, the auction sale has precluded the acquisition of an important part of our national heritage by a single publicly accessible archive - in this case, Bristol University. The university indeed acquired much of the material, as did the Institution of Civil Engineers, but our national heritage has been appreciably weakened over-

The success of the sale will inevitably tempt others, and more fragmentation will follow. No obvious solution presents itself. One can only hope that private guardians of our national heritage will act responsibly and accept that they have an obligation to their forebears in maintaining the integrity of their heritage.

Yours etc, M. M. CHRIMES (Head Librarian), The Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street. Westminster, SWI. . December 2

Going to St Ives

From Mr Michael Knight

Sir. Lorry drivers may not be the only people to mistake St Ives, Cambridge shire (letters, November 22, 28). I am told that when the artist Willie Watt Milne (1865-1949) travelled from Edinburgh to visit the artist's colony in St Ives, Cornwall, he arrived here by accident, took lodgings at the nearby village of Houghton, and was so entranced with the area that he spent the rest of his life there, moving to a house in St Ives in 1932. He left a magnificent legacy of paintings of the town, the river and the surrounding countryside. His mistake was Cornish Porthia's loss and our own Bishop Ivo's gain.

Ivo was a 7th-century Persian bishop who visited England to convert

saint by the monks of Ramsey Abbey, who built St Ivo's Priory near the village of Slepe (later known as St Ives); his presumed grave was found nearby some 1,000 years ago. The details of this story are in The Life and Miracles of St Ivo by S. B. Edgington, published by the Friends of the Norris Muse

the heathen. He was taken to be a

By a strange coincidence. Cambridgeshire shares another saint with Cornwall - St Neot, Hopefully, there are no lorry drivers stuck outside Liskeard, desperately seeking a destination on the edge of the Fens.

MICHAEL KNIGHT. Quay Court, Bull Lane, St Ives, Cambridgeshire. December 4.

Legally covered

From his Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC

Sir, When the spokesman for Ede & Ravenscroft, suppliers of legal robes. said (Diary, December 5) "They [black nylon tights for judges| cover a multi-tude of sins", did he drop an airch?

Yours faithfully, ALAN KING-HAMILTON. Royal Air Force Club. 128 Piccadilly, W1. December 6.

Weekend Money letters, page 37

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Millennium fountains

From Mrs G. A. Falvey

Sir, Mrs E. M. Thomas calls for more water displays, like the Shelley me-morial at Horsham, which make imaginative and original use of water, are simple in form, open to the sky and open to the public (letter, November 29; see also letter. December, 4). London has such a display: the Canadian War Memorial in Green Park, unveiled by the Queen in June

Built of red Canadian granite, with carved insets of maple leaves, a film of water continually flows over it mirroring the changing seasons, light, sky and clouds. The viewer's imagination and sensibility are engaged.

Yours faithfully, GRACE A. FALVEY. Hampton Manor. Evesham, Worcestershire.

Threat to purity of English trees

From Mr P. J. Church

Sir, I was pleased to read Nick Nuttall's report "English oak threatened by cheap foreign seedlings" (Novem-

The gene pool of our native trees is indeed being polluted by imported stock — not just oak but beech, pine and many other species. The reason is not, as Mr Nuttall suggests, merely. one of price; it is also a matter of avail-

European forestry regulations re-quire that, if grant is to be paid, spe-cies grown for timber such as oak and beech can only be grown from seed collected from a registered "stand" (a block of trees selected specifically for that purpose). In the UK these regula-tions are applied strictly by the Fores-try Commission and there are not enough stands, especially of oak, to

meet demand from nurseries. Seed is therefore imported from registered European stands, not all of which are as strictly controlled as ours. If the Forestry Commission were to accelerate the registration of new seed stands more native stock of pro-

ven quality would become available.

Meanwhile landscape designers in
the UK are increasingly specifying native stock originating "where possible" in the very county in which it is to be planted. This is often an impossible demand for nurseries to meet, due to the length of lead time required, and the contractor will therefore turn to

imported stock. Part of the answer lies, I suggest, in the preparation of guidelines for land-scape designers, defining broad provenance zones such as eastern England or southwest Scotland. Too rigid. a specification of the acceptable zone of origin defeats its own purpose.

Yours faithfully, P. J. CHURCH (Managing Director), Alba Trees pic Lower Winton. Gladsmuir, East Lothian.

November 29. From Mr Mike Townsend

Sir. As Britain's largest charity dedicated solely to conserve native wood-land, the Woodland Trust has been working for nearly 25 years to protect native tree species. It currently owns over 800 woods nationwide, covering more than 36,000 acres; it plants only oak of British origin, which we guarantee by a certificate tracing the tree's scheme incorporates the 200 new woods for the millennium which will be created by the "Woods on Your Doorstep" projects to which your

report refers. A number of major nurseries, such as Maelor Nurseries in Shropshire. now provide information on provenance for a range of British tree species. Unfortunately, the number of nurseries which operate schemes of this type is still insufficient to meet the total demand for broadleaved trees in Britain.

Yours respectfully, MIKE TOWNSEND (Director of Woodland Operations), The Woodland Trust. Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire. November 26.

From Mrs Pat Davies

Sir, Contrary to the information given in the illustration accompanying Nick. Nuttail's report, red squirrels cannot digest acorns. They feed mainly on hazelnuts and conifer seeds, leaving acorns to their grey cousins, who can exist on them.

Yours faithfully, PAT DAVIES. Sheepleas, Wickhurst Road, Weald, Sevenoaks, Kent.

What's in a name?

From Mr George Speak Sir, I am obliged to comment on the recent correspondence on the significance of names (November 14, 21, 26,

Yours faithfully. GEORGE SPEAK, Worksop, Nottinghamshire. December 2.

From the Dean of Lichfield

Sir, Flying from Heathrow to Torontolast year, I had a Mr Rong sitting on my right. Unfortunately his English was so rudimentary that I didn't even attempt to explain who was sitting on

Yours etc. TOM WRIGHT. The Deanery, Lichfield, Staffordshire. December 4.

An orderly life

From Mrs P. A. Mills

Sir, Mrs Sheridan Taylor can share the (dubious?) honour of being her husband's "reliable databank" (letter. November 29) with the wife of G. K. This notoriously absent-minded

. <u>--</u>-

gentleman sent a telegram to his wife. with the following request: "Am in Market Harborough. Where ought I' Yours faithfully,

PAULINE A. MILLS, 34 Holmfield Avenue, Stoneygate, Leicester. December 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 6: The Duke of York this afternoon attended the Fiftieth Anniversary Annual General Meeting of the Royal Naval Birdwatching Society at the Royal Geographical Society, London

His Royal Highness this evening attended a concert in the presence of The Queen of Norway at Westminster Abbey, London SWI, to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the gift of the Norwegian Christmas Tree to the people of London.

December 6: The Princess Royal, Patron, Citizens Advice Scotland. this morning visited Maryhill Citizens Advice Bureau, 1145 Maryhill Road, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Ciry of Glasgow (Mr Patrick Laily, the Rt Hon the Lord

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the National Audistic Society, later opened the Society's Scottish of-fices at Il Union Street, Glasgow.

Summer Fields, Oxford

The Governors of Summer Fields are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Robin Badham-Thornhill, currently Headmaster of Lambrook School and formerly Housemaster at Chelten-ham College, as Headmaster. He will take up the appointment in September 1997 in succession to Mr Nigel Talbor Rice who is retiring after 32 years at the school, and 22 years as Headmaster. The President of Hungary has invested Viscount Rothermere with the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic, Middle Cross with Star.

noon opened the new Schiehallion Unit at the Royal Hospital for Sick

December to The Prince of Wales today visited Liverpool and was

received by Her Majesty's Lord-

Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr

His Royal Highness, President,

Business in the Community, this morning opened Phase 2 of the

development at the Eldonian Vil-

lage and met winners of the Community Enterprise Awards. The Prince of Wales afterwards

The Prince of Wales President,

The Prince's Trust, later visited the Sandpipers Centre, Southport, and met recipients of respite care and participants of the Trust's Volunteers programme.

Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

University news

Orderd Oriel College

Merseyside

Election to an Emeritus Pellow-ship: W.E. Parry, Fellow of the College and Tutor in Mathematics, 1961-96.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY Sir Fred Atkinson, civil servant, 77: Mr Roy Avery, former Headmaster, Bristol Grammar School, 71; Viscount Boyd of Merton, 57; Mr Donald Crichton-Miller, former Headmaster, Rettes College and Stowe School, 90; Judge Lord Elystan-Morgan, 64; Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 61; Mr Kaffe Fassett, textile designer, 59; Profes-sor Lawrence Freedman, FBA, war historian, 48; Professor Sir Abra-ham Goldberg, physician, 73; Professor N. Gowar, Principal, Royal Holloway University of London, 56; Dr A.J. Higgins, director, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, 48; Sir Bryan Hopkin, civil servant, 82; Mr Chris Joynt, rugby league player, 25; Mr Victor Kiam, chairman, Remington Prod-ucts Company, 70; the Countess of Limerick, former chairman, British Red Cross, 61; Sir Sydney Samuelson, British Film Commissloner, 71; Mr Roger J. Taylor, deputy chairman, Royal and Sun liance Insurance Group, 55; The Rev R.C.Trounson, former Prin-chai, St Chad's College, Durham, 70; Mr Ell Wallach, actor, 81; Miss

TOMORROW

Miss Kim Basinger, accress, 43; Sir Ralph Carr-Ellison, Lord-Lieuzen-ant of Tyne and Wear. 71; Sir Julian Critchley, MP, 66; Dr Susan Danby, Principal, College of the Royal Academy of Dancing, 52; Sir Peter Daniell, former Senior Gov-ernment Broker, 87; Mr Harold Elletson, MP, 36; Professor Sir Roger Ellion, FRS, physicist, 66; Mr. Lucian Freud, OM, CH, painter, 74.

Mr James Galway, flute player, 57; Sir de Villiers Graaff, former South African politician, 83; Mrs Pauline Green, MEP, 48; Sir David Hay, cardiologist, and his twin brother Sir Hamish Hay, former Mayor of Christchurch, New Zealand, 69; Mr Geoff Hurst. footballer, SS; Sir Peter Levene, former chairman, Canary Whari, 55; Mr Terry McDermott, footballer, 46; Mr Justice Jonathan Parker, 59: Lord Prys-Davies, 73; Mr DJ. Ver chairman, Lazard Brothers, 46; Earl Waldegrave, 56; Mr Lynn Wilson, chairman, Wilson 57. (Connolly) Holdings.

Service dinner

ist Regiment Royal Horse Artillery Past and present members of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery held their annual Reunion Dinner at Woolwich last night. Major General M.T. Tennant. Honorary Regimental Colonel, presided. Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner St James's Park, was the principal

Dinners

Parish Clerks' Company The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffe and their ladies, alreaded the Clerks' Company held last night at Clerks' Company held last night at the Mansion House. The Master, the Rev Graham Blacktop, presided, assisted by Mr O.W.H. Clark and Mr J.D. Hebblethwaite, Wardens. The Lord Mayor, Sir John Welch, Parish Clerk of St Michael Paternoster Royal, and the Right Rev Lord Runcie also sople.

launched the Merseyside Chall-enge Light Up Someone's Christ-mas" at St George's Hall. His Royal Highness this after-noon opened the Conservation Centre — part of the National Museums and Galleries on also spoke.
Earlier, the Rev Richard Hayes officiated and the Bishop of London was the preacher at Holy Communion at St Mary Woolnoth.

Service luncheon Royal Artillery Council of Scotland

Colonel J.G. Mathieson presided at Colones J.C. Manneson presiden at the autumn meeting of the Royal Artillery Council of Scotland held yesterday at the Army Headquarters Scotland. General Sir Martin Farndale, Brigadier M.G. Douglas-Witners and Lieutenant-Colonel G.A. Thom were the principal guests at a litterbare held offensively.



Jenny Agutter shows the plaque in memory of . Dilys Powell to Ivor Powell, her nephew

Dilys Powell remembered

Dilys Powell, former film critic of The Sunday Times, was unveiled in London this week by the actress Jenny Agutter. Miss Powell wrote about films for the paper for more than 50 years until her death, aged 93, in June last

Miss Agutter, star of The Railway Children, said that she had been given great encouragement in the early days of her acting career by Miss Powell's reviews: "Dilys was a great enthusiast of films

A plaque celebrating the con-tribution made to cinema by plaque, one of a number unveiled throughout the country to commemorate 100 years of cinema, will be placed on the front of the house in Albion Street, near Hyde Park. where Miss Powell lived for more than half a century.

Appointment

Mr Christopher McLaren to be Hon Treasurer of the English-Speaking Union of the Common-wealth in succession to Mr Robin Clarke.

Memorial service

Sir Charles Sopwith A memorial service for Sir Charles Sopwish, former Second Counsel to the Chairman of Committees, House of Lords, was beld yesterday at the

of Lords, was beid yesterday at the Church of the Holy Cross, Sarratt, Richmansworth. The Rev Peter Hart officiated. Mr Robert Williams, great nephew, read the lesson.

Mr Derek Rippengal, QC, and Mr Stephen Fletcher, great nephew, gave addresses. Members of the family and friends were present.

Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners

The Annual General Meeting and Branch Chairmen's National Conference of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners was held on November 30 at Phillips Fine Arts Auctioneers. Mr Geoffrey Shindler, Chairman of the Society, presided, Chairman and present the Society of Trust and Socie Chabrien and representatives from twenty nine Branches were present

Luncheons

Butchers Company Mr M.R. Katz, Mast Butchers' Company
Mr M.R. Karz, Master of the Butchers' Company, was the host at a
huncheon held yesterday at Butchers'
Hall for the presentation of prizes for
the Meat Training Council, Mr
Christopher Gill, MP, chairman of
the council, was the speaker.

Samm and Timers Chub
Mr Terry Waite, Mr Robbie Gien,
Mr Colin Ingleby-Mackeraie and Mr
Neil Benson were the speakers at a
the Christman huncheon of the Samus
and Sinners Chub held yesterday at
the Savoy Hotel, Mr Gay Kindersley
presided,

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.H. O'Connor and the Hon Katharina B.A. Grenfell The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Thomas O'Connot, of Florida, and Kafnarina, daughter of Lord Grenfell and of Gabrielle Lady Grenfell, of New York. Mr P.S. Ashby

and Mini A.C. Baker The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs D. Ashby, of Streetly, and Alicia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.F. Baker, of Streetly, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr J.L: Fisher

and Miss E.L. Skipper
The engagement is announced
between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs R. Fisher, of Evesham, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs DJ. Skipper, of Woburn. Mr S.G. Petopoulos
and Mr C.E.A. Younger
The engagement is announced
between Serateum, son of Mr and

Mrs Gavrilis Fotopoulos, of Rethymnon, Crete, and Candia, daughter of Mr David Younger, of Dumon, Argylishire, and Mrs Alny Younger, of Haddington, East Lothism Dr C.W. McIntyre and Miss N.J. Turck

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs William Mcintyre, of Staplehurst, Kent, and Natasha, daughter of Dr Walter Turck, of Edentield, Lancashire, and Mrs.

and Miss C.N. Addison . The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs

ŧ.

Sidney MacCormac, of Sitting-bourne, Kent, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Addison, of East Portlemouth, Devon. Mr A.E. Parsous and Miss C.F. Lewis The engagement is announced between Adam, only son of Mr and Mrs Victor Parsons, of Newton

Ferrers, Devon, and Catherine Frances, only daughter of the late Mr Edward Lewis and of Mrs Sandra Lewis, of Heronsgate, Mr D.C. Way and Miss K.E. Jones

The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Terry Way, of Windlesham, Surrey, and Katharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville lones of Harpenden, Herdordshire. Mr S.D. Weston and Miss C.E. Machin

The engagement is announced between Steven David, younges between Steven David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Edward Weston, of Cheshans Buckinghamshire, and Clag-Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Professor and Mrs Samuel Machin, of Gerrards Cross Buckinghamshire.

Anniversaries are on the facing page

ST JAMES'S, Pleasabily: 8.30 H.C: 11 S Euch, Rev H Valenting: 5.45 EP.

Church services tomorrow

T ANDREWS CAPHEDRAL AMERDEDI: 1
HC: 10.15 S Euch: 6.30,Choral E.
ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 MP:
Benedicire (Barnes). Never weather-besten sail
(Campion). Canon W Twaddell: 3.15 Choral E.
And the glory of the Lord (Handel).
BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch.
Jackson in G. Leienbur Coeli (Byrd): 3.30
HOSDICE Carol Service.

BELEAST CATHEDRAL: 10 MC; 11 8 Euch. Beleast In al. Electrons Cooli (Byrd); 3.30 Hospice Carol Service.

Intelligent Man Cathedral: 9 MP; 9.15 MC; 11 Choral Euch. Darke in E. O People of Zion (Tone Vil.) Cooli Cminium (Wood), 11 Fe Provost 4 Choral E. Dyson in D. O come Erumanuel (art Cartel, Rev A Friestley.

Brecon Cathedral: 8, 11 Holy Euch. Flainsong: 3.30 E, Purcell in O minor, Nan Kommon et Heiden Heiland (Bach).

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 MC; 9.30 S Euch. 9.30 M; 11 S Euch. Missa Brevis in F K 192 (McZard, Lasse uns frohlokken (Mendelsshou). Rev Dr M Chandler; 3.15 E, Ireland in F. Carlissle Cathedral: 3.15 E, The Blessed Vigin Mary Service (Posteri, Regions in the Lord alway (Purcell).

CREMESDED CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Darke in F, Issus Christ. the apple use Poston). Canon D Weston; 3 E, The Blessed Vigin Mary Service (Posteri, Regions in the Lord alway (Purcell).

CREMESDED CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; Rev J Jones; 9.30 Euch, Canon D Renght.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Lackson in E, Deurset Lord Jesus Bach. Canon D Renght.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Lackson in E, Deurset Lord Jesus Bach. Canon D Renght.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Bach. Canon D Renght.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Basisson in D. The Wilderman Goss).

CHRIST CHERCH CATHEDRAL; 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Basis on in D. The Wilderman Goss).

CHRIST CHERCH CATHEDRAL; 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Basis on in D. The Wilderman Goss).

CHRIST CHERCH CATHEDRAL, Onford: 8 HC; 10 M. Bermon in D. The Wilderman Goss).

CHRIST CHERCH CATHEDRAL; 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Basis on in D. The Wilderman Goss).

CHRIST CHERCH CATHEDRAL; 8 HC; 10 M. Harris in A. Bachold I make all raining new Paris in P. Deurset Lord Jesus and Section in D. The Precentor; 6 E, Lord let me know mine end (Green). So Communion; 10.30 Boch, Missa string art rema Brown; IO M. Purcell in Bital. Hide not thou thy sace (Parranh, The Procentor, 11.15 HC. Duries in F. Sacerdone Domini (Byrd). Canon M. Perry, 13.30 E. Prepare ye the way of the land (Wissi EMPIER CATHEDRAL 5 HC; 9.45 S. Euch. Licany in the Holy Spirit Pharford, Worth Service (Tenner). Listen sweet dove (wes.).

Gibbons), Repolce in the Lord (Furcelli: 6.30 Evening, Teach me of Lord (Anwood, The Dean. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Buch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Teach me of Lord (Byrd). The Treasurer: 11.30 M. Jubilate (Stanford in Bilad). Lastenour coell (Byrd): 3.30 L. Rev / de la Tour Davies.

LECESTRE CATHEDRAL: 4 HC. Rev Prof O Mardin: 9.45 S. Ench. Litzery (Dalliel, Missa Papase Marcelli (Telestrian). Mor F. Gartand: 11.15 M. Te Deum Collegtum Result (Howells). A sportess rose (Howells). Canoo Dr M. Palmeri 6.30 E. Totus trus; (Gorecid), Miss E. Mellors.

LCHFFELD CATHEDRAL: 4 HC. 10.30 S. Euch. Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydri). Benedicire in Brist (Sumsion). Ave werum corpus (Mozara). The Chancellor; 3.30 E. Toy word is a lantern (Byrd). LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Jinny: 8, 12.30 HC. 9.30 S. Euch. Darke in P. The truth from showe (Vargina). Williams. Rev Dr J Newton; 11.19 M. Benedicire in D minor (Marshaff). Adam is y-bounded (Wariocit); 3.45 E. Wise in F. Rejoice in the Lord alway (Purcell). The Dean. LIVELIPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC. 10.30 E. Canon Dr J Elford; 3 Chorai E, Canon N Vircent; 4 HC. VINCENT 4 HC.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL 8.45 MP, 9 HC.
10.30 S Euch, Darke in E. Canon J Atherton.
6.30 E. Purcell in G minor, Canon J Atherton.
NEWCLETTE CATHEDRAL 7.30 M. 9 HC.
CARON B Langley, 9.30 S Euch, Olinoyo in D.
Remember O linou man (Ravenscrott), Canon B
Langley, 6 Choral E. This is the truth (Vaughan
Williams), Evening Hymn (Gardiner).
NEWPORT CATHEDRAL 10.30 M, Teach me O
Lond (Byrd): 6.30 E. The Secret of Christ
(Shephand). Land (Byrd).

Shephard).

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC 9.30

M. Benedicine in F (Arabicide 10.30 Exch. The
Precessor, 3.30 E. The Fourth Service (Bauten).

Try word is a lantern (Partell).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Exch. The Deant; 9.30

Parish Ench. Missa Lauda Sion (Falestrian).

Great Land of Lords (Gibbons). Canon T

Johnson: 1.130 M. Awale. Awale (Wisel: 12.30

Lich, Canon E Eason: 3 Holy Septient: 5.30 E.

Day in B flat, Awale of Lord and basisse (Sech.).

Canon M Clanville-Smith.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 6 HC 9.45 M.

Recediche Stumsson in 8 (In). Open try gues

to him who weeping wales (Malmon; 10.30 S

Eoch. William in E. Bar (no Gorla). Canon F

Lock: 12 Informal Organ Recins!: 1.15 Informal
Conows: 3.18 E. Gray in F mison; 9-80re ine

ending of the day (Chambers), 7.30 Kent Youth

8 Cummunity Services Carols.

Pretoriusi, Rev A Philip: 3 E. Wesley in E. Come ye and let us go up (Naylor).

**INTERPRELO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 \$

**EUCh, Missa bel amfit (Iassus). The Tire of Life (Poston). Canon C Smith: 6.30 E & Sermon, Second Service (Gibbons). Hall gladdening light (Wood). The Provost: 7.45 Cinrist in Quiet.

**THUPO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 \$ Buch, Shanlord in C & F. The Apple Tree (Poston). The Dean; 3.3 Christingle Service. The Chancellor; 6 E. Ave Mariz (Parsons), The Librarian.

**WAKEFIELD CYPHEDRAL: 8 HC; Canon G Nalm-Briggs; 9,15 Parish Communion, Adam lay y bounden (Warlock), Canon F Price. 11

**Soliema Ruch, Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd), Canon P Price. Solemn Euch. Mass of the Quiet Hour (Oldroyd, Camon P Price.)

Wells Cathedral: # HC 9.45 E Each, Daries in R. Jesu de very thought of thee (Balistow), reb A Wallace. 11.30 M & Holy Bartler, Renedicius (Harwood in A flad, Teach me O Lord (Jawood); 3 & The Salisbury Service (Lloyd, And I saw a new heaven (Baliston), Rev German & WCS Advent Service.

WESTMINSTER ABBET! 8 HC 10 M. Senedicius (Byrd), Feach me O Lord (Byrd), Canon D Hutti 11.15 Euch, Mass Lewis, People colk East (Anom), Nun komm der Heiden Heiland Beviss (Bach), Rev J Goodalt; 3 & Vicinia in the First Tong. The word is a langern (Parcell), Rev J Harmis SAS Grgan Recini; 6.30 & Canon A Harvey.

WESTMINSTER CATHIDRAL: 8 HC 10.30 M. Judians (Brunen in C. Rejoice in the Lord slway (Redford), Rev J Harmis SAS Grgan Recini; 6.30 & Canon A Harvey.

WESTMINSTER CATHIDRAL: 8 HC 10.30 M. Judians (Brunen in C. Rejoice in the Lord slway (Redford), Rev J Harmis SAS Grgan Recini; 6.30 & Canon February (Brunen in C. Rejoice in the Lord slway (Redford), Rev D Harmis (Byrd), Lace on February (Brunen in C. Rejoice in the Lord slway (Redford), Rev D HOSEN, The Canon F Winsones & Bestbenion, Grey to Folioce, Lord Valley, Rev D M Dorent, Tonge MINSTER SAS HC 10.3 Euch, Messen Revis (Palestrina), Rev J Saphridge: 11.50 M. Jackson in G. 4 L Wood in F. Hosenna to the Roa of David (Gibbors), Rev C Rawling.

27 AAAPR CATHEDRAL: Crewd: 8 MC; 11 Choral M, Rejoice in the Lord Slway (Purcell), The Denni SJO EP.

37 BAVITE CATHEDRAL Crewd: 8 MC; 11 Choral M, Rejoice in the Lord Slway (Purcell), The Denni SJO EP. The Dean; 3. To EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: # HC: 9.30 Cymun, Bendigaid, Y Canor; 9.30 Parish Each, The Successor; 11.15 Choral M. Benedicite Sumston in B hast, Jubilate Breiand in Fi. And the glory of the Lord (Handel). The Caron; 6 Choral E. Muntill in E. This is the resent of John. IT EDMUNDSHIPE CATHEDRAL TO EACH Of the Control of John Chiboons). The Dean. IT EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL BUILDE & thought (withings): 1.30 Seath, Harris in S. Lead me Lord (Westey): 3.30 E. Seath, Harris in S. Lead me Lord (Westey): 3.30 E. Seath Service (Byrd), This is the record of John (Olibona).

FT GEORGET CATHEDRAL Southwark: B. [CALM: 1]: 30 Solemn M. Mass in A mirror (Castollini), Wachet auf (Bach). May I. Write.

ST MACHARS CATHEDRAL, Oli Aberdeni.

Sing we merify (Murray), Rev R Frizer: B
Evering, Rev R Frizer.

STPAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 Mc; 8:45 Mc;
If S Buch, Mcles an honorem Sancti Dominical
(Rubbra). The Short Service (Weelles), Romancoeli (Byro), Rt Rev M Baugieri: 3:15 E. The
Glomester Burvice (Howells), Behold all flesh isser the grass (Brahma). Rev M Saward; 5:15
Glogar Recital.

BURSHAM ONTHODOX CATHEDDRAL Emplamore Gardens, London, SW: 10:30 Divine
Dincesan Bistop Mer. Anthony.

All SAINTS, Margares Street, Wir R.S. 13 LAG:
10:20 Mc; 11 MM. Mess for four voices (Byrd),
Rev J Robertson: 4 E. The Short Service
All SOULS, Langham Place, Wi: 8
Commondent II Coptingnion, Rev R Tees 6.10
Carrolls by Cambelingh, Mer Preb R Rews,
Will Life.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warvick Street, Wi; 11. Dóminus venter (Victoria): 1230, 436, 7 Mags. 130 V & E. Ave vertum corpus (Wilton). WESTATY CHAPEL, Chy Rood, ECE: 9.45 RIC: 11 Annual Continued Service, Rev. Dr. L. Continue. WEST DISTER CENTRAL HALL DESCRICTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PERTY OF T Marier - An Advent Celebration.

An Advent Celebration.

FE BRIDE'S, Pietr Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Buch, Jackson in G. How like an anset came down (Drayton), Caron J Oates, 6.30 Choral E. Handel's Messiah, Canon J Oates, 5.70 Choral E. French Messiah, Canon J Oates, 5.70 Choral E. French Messiah, Canon J Oates, 5.70 Choral E. Pietro, Procelli, Repoles in the Lord alway (Pracelli, Rev P Bishop.

FT COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTEANIO, Polif Street, SWI: 11 ENV PTO! G Newlands; 6.30 ENV W Calms. OCENT TOTAL CHYPIACE I S MARK MISSES OCENT TOTAL CASES, Dalit Marin (Bassich), will O Saplemia (Pulnsong). ST GEORGES, Hanover Square, W1: 8,30 FIC: 15 Buck. Collegian Regule, Mowals), The

ST LUKE'S, Chelses, SW3: 8 HC; 10,30 MPA HC, 5is Terese; 6,30 E. Thy word is a langua (Purcell), Rev I Matabula. Pamily Communicion: 11 S Euch, Audivi, worsh de coèo (Tailis), Rev T Jones.

IT MARGARETS, Westminster, 5971: 11 B Euch, Messe Solenelle (Vierne), Audivi vocan rialis), Canon A Harvey.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FREIDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9:48 Buch, Rev C Herbert; 11:30 Visitors, Rev A Hurs; 2:45 Chirase, Rev G Lee 5:30 Biension ut the Crib to Trafsigar Square; 6:30 Evening.

IT MARY ABBOTS CHURCH. Assessment of the Crib to Trafsigar Square; 6:30 Evening.

IT MARY I bourne Eurez, 1971; 9: 10.7 List 11 I/M. Mass for four voices (Byrd), Fr R Perguson; 6:50km B A F Benediction.

ST MARYLEBONE. Marylebone Road, WI; 8

TM MARYLEBONE. Marylebone Road, WI; 8 SUMMAR SE E BENEDICION.

T MARYIEBONE, Marylebone Road, Wi: 8
NC 11 Choyal Buch, Mies brevis Delevius),
Adam key ybounden (Grid, Rev I Chri.

T PARIS, Wilton Piace, SWI: 8, 9 RC: 11
Solenn: Buch, Misse brevis Institution,
TO (Wood), Rev I Rushinsyer,
IT PETERS, Ramn Sorane (WI): 8 A. orb (Wood), Mey H. Rushinsper, 817 PETER'S, Rann Souzie, SWI: 8,15 HC; 10 Fumily Euch; 1) 8 Euch; Missa Salve Internet and Virgo (Tallist, Fr. W. Keyes; 10 Keyes; 10 Keyes; 10 Keyes; 11 Keyes; 12 Keyes; 11 Keyes; 12 Keyes; 11 Keyes; 12 Keyes; 13 Keyes; 14 Keyes; 14 Keyes; 15 Keyes; 16 Keyes; 16 Keyes; 16 Keyes; 16 Keyes; 17 Keyes; 17 Keyes; 18 Clarke
CHAPSI, ROYAL, Rassuppes Court Palace, 5-30
HG (1645k; 11 M & Litary, Dyson in F. Libary
Trailed, 5-30 E. Second Service - Tomkins),
Lacteniur coeli (Byrd).
SROOSVENOR CHAPSI, South Audley Firset,
Wi: 8-18 HG. 11 E Ruch, Missa Simila est
regulum coclorum (Victoria), Andavi sociem de
coclo (Invernet), Rev F Krule. SOEIO (TAVETNET, REV P KEUIE.

QUELTNE CHAPE, OF KEUIE.

THE DRUM (HARTS IN AD). ZHON DERTS HET

WATCHINGER (BRICK). THE CHAPIERIS 12.30 HC.

280E TEMPLE CHURCH, HEET STREET 8.30 HC.

280E RC, 11.15 MP. Benedictus (Dyson in P., Vox.

dicentis (Navjort. The Measur. GRARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: 11 M. Adam is producted ford), vox dicentia (Naylor), Sand of the Scots Grands, Rev L Bryan; 12 HC. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch (BCP), Shaw, Advent Responsong (Palertrina), Rev C Prench.

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EX-SERVICES MENTAL WELFARE SOCIETY

We honour shope who gave their fives for pur country. But what of thiose who shared the same horsors and serviced . . . their

minds shattered.
The Ex-Services Mental Welfar

COMBAT STRESS

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jeens said to them When, therefore, a teacher of the har he become a lease in the kingdom of heaven, he is like a freeschalter who can produce from his store things new and chil kingle we 12:52

Helen Watts, opera singer, 69.

BIRTHS

1996, to Ments (nie Moon) 1996, to Menia (nie Moon) and Eric, our precious daughter, Ellen Brittany lake

ABOY - To been and whe on let become at 12-06 an at Chelsee and Westminster Hospital, a beautiful first child, Tilly Beatrice, 8 pounds. Love and thoughts to Grandpa B.

Annabel (née Devas) and Keith, a son, Benedict Cilver Dudley, FADLALISH - On December and at the Northead Respiral, to Rama and Mobassaned, a benefity on, Albin. Wish him a happy life.

MILTHREST - Bob and Liz (not MacHae) are delighted to ensounce the birth of their daughter Elitch Elisabeth on 26th November 1996.

HARRED - Co ESIA November 1996, to Letitia (née McElnury) and fames, a son, Titus Innes Columba.

at the Periand Septital, to Severiey (née Key) and Gurinder, a beautiful daughter, Amelia Tara -weight 7lbs. WYAM - On Sth Ducu

the Portland Hospital, to Gillian (née Craig) and Omer, 2 sun, Even craig. LOPRESO - On December 3rd at the Portland Hospital, to Early and Kevin, a daughter, Circle Press, a little circur for Seminado Robert.

PHULWAMI - On November 25th at the Portland Hospital, to Nikita and Prakash, a beautiful daughter, Simman.

M.Dream - On 4th December 1996, to Kathryn and Robert of Roscarnock, Comwall, a son, Philip Hanry, a boother for Miles and Robert.

Nicholas, on Thanksgiving Day, a daughter, Isabella. SOUCHAUD - With great joy, he and Theses amounts the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Gasea, Thursday 28th November 1996.

Williams - On 9th November to Sally (note Holland) and Peter, the gift of a beautiful daughter, Sanh Jane, now home with us. Special thanks to Wythepshawe Ecopital 3230.

William - Refl and Amoell, their second daughter lesses he has versels in Matthia Hospital, Hosp Long 11th November 1996.

MARRIAGES CREAN-ROSSI - On Saturday October 26th at St Francis of Assist, West Des Motnes, Iowa, USA, of Mr. Damiau Crean, elder son of Doctor and Mrs Demnet Crean of Gosport, Hampshire, to Miss Sexan Rossi, daugitur of Mr. & Mrs I John Bossi of West Des Motnes, Iowa.

DEATHS

AMNETT - Hilda Alice, on December 6th 1996, aged 85 years. Devoted mother of som, Peter and grandson, Kirk. Her love and laughter

Etc. Her love and laughter will be greatly missed. Finanal Service 2pm Friday December 13th at St. Mary's Church, Sunbury-on-Thames, followed by cremation at Hanworth Crematorium. Flowers to Lodge Stothers, Ashford, Middlesex.

CROFTS - Suddenly at home on 5th December 1996, John, aged 78 years. Husband of the late Disma and father of Andrew. Enquiries to Freeman Brothers Funeral Directors. Tel: (01403) 254590.

254590.

CROWLEY-MILLING Air Marshal Sir Denis. On December 1st, peacefully in hospital, beloved husband of Lorns and father of Joy and Gillian. There will be a private service, family only, no flowers, but contributions to the Douglas Bader Centre. Roehampton Lane, London SW15 5DZ would be appreciated A Memorial Service will be held at a later date.

DARLING - Nigel on 30th November in Bromeswell, Suffelk, after a long Illness, Much loved son of Aidy Darling and the late Brian Darling and the laten Darling. Funeral Service at Eyles Church on Friday 13th December at 2 pm. No flowers please but densitions if desired to Eyles Church for the Organ Restoration Fund.

ASSIGNATION FUND.

ELLIS - Joycelya Audrey
Downing (née Evens) at
Katharine House Hospice,
Arderbury, on December 4th
1996. Private cremation,
followed by Thanksgiving
Savice on Priday December
13th at 3t Mary's Church,
Shipton-under-Wychwood at
12 noon, Pamily Howars only
please, but donations would
be appreciated to Katherine
House Hospice, Addenbury,
Sanbury, Oxfordshire.

HOGHISON - Maylorie (nee

Suspury, Chornships.

Suspury, Chornships.

Suspury, Chornships.

Suspury, Church Berning, Chin, Bill and Catherine, Service in St.

Mary's Church, Seath Storeham, Wessex Line, Seath Storeham, Wessex Line, Seath Storeham, Wessex Line, December at 1pm fellowed. by private Cramation.

DEATHS GREFTINE - died on December 4th 1996, in Oxford, Many Staine, aged 87 years, Emericus Fellow of St. Anne's College, Oxford. Reception of the body at St. Gregory's R.C. Church, Woodstock Road, Oxford, on Transdry December 10th, at 6.30 pm. Funeral Mass on Wednesdry December 10th, at 11:00 am, followed by cremation, at 12:30 pm. No flowers, donations to Endcliffe Influency Trust Fonds, may be sent to Beeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, OXI 4TE

Oxford, OXI 4TE

KHREY-SHITH - Gerald

Eoldsway died peacafully on

4th December 1996 at

Prince George Dubs of Kent
Court, Chislehurst Kent,
aged 80 years, beloved

tusband of the ints Gwanyth

and grantly loved father of
John (deceased), Feter,
David, Charles and
grandchildren, Funeral
Service at St John's Church,
Sideup, Kent on Monday

16th December at 11am,
followed by private
cremation. Family flowers

only, but demations may be
stant to the EMEL, 20 Great

Queen's Street, London,

WC28 5BG. BAMMEL - Dr Ernst, On December 5th in Germany, aged 73, after a long Biness.

WAZE DBG.

RECHT - David Francis, on December 5th, died peacefully at home in Limpsfield. Most dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Private family services. Donations 1f desired to the RSPR, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds. "We will remember you for your love of life, fortitude and humour - you are an example to us all."

all."

LOTT - Dr Bernard Maurice
CBE died pescafully after a
long struggle at the
Middleck Hospital, Mortimer
Stoed, London, on Thursday
5th December, aged 74
years, Dearly loved husband
of Relen and father of
Carolyn and David, and
grandlather of Matthew,
Huma, Josephine, Dulcis and
Madeleine. The Funeral
Service will be held at
Golders Gosen Commatorium
on Wednesday, December
11th at Span Family Rowens
only, but donations, if
desired, key be sent please
to The National Kidney
Federation, 6 Stanley Street,
Worksop, S81 7EL.

MEADMORE - On December

Monisop, S81 7HL

MEADMORE - On December 6th, passetully in hospital, Valletta, aged 85 years. Releved wife of Goodhey and dearly beloved mother of Charlotte and loving grandmother of Liss and Mind. Funeral Service at Mortlake Cramatorium on Tossiny December 10th at 3pm. Cat flowers only to 1 H. Kanyon, 49 Mariloes Bd. Kunsington, W8 6LA (0171) 937 0757

MASSAUER - On Sth December 1996, suddanly, at home, after breakfast, Evdi Nasawer, aged 72 Author, wine shipper, quarty leved father, grandfather and falend. Gremation at 12,30pm on Monday December 9th at West Chapel, Hoop Lane, Golders Grem.

PERSONAL COLUMN

è Community Sérvices Carola.

SALISEURY COTTREDRAL: S HC. Very Rev D.

Watson: 10 Euch. Misse Alma redemptoria
Maiser (Victoria). Chrisma facus est Aderio).

Canon D Dursson; 1130 M. Benediche in G
(Jackson). Jobiate (Collegium Regale).

(Howells). There is a spring flower (arr

overland. In loving memory of Christopher Williams who died suddenly on 22nd November 1996. Sadly missed by his family and friends. The family wishes to thank all his friends for their kind support at this difficult time.

946 1974
MELSON - Air Commodors Eris
Douglas McKinlay CB DL, of
Wellingore, Lincoln, on 5th
December, aged 84. Seloved
husband of the late Twomes
(née Taylor) and father of
Ridley and Erica. Private
funeral and cremation.
Memorial Service to be held
at St. Michael and All Angels,
Royal Air Force College,
Commell, on Thursday 9th
jamurry 1997 at 11am. IN MEMORIAM --PRIVATE

January 1997 at 11am.

BEWSONE - (née Ford)

Bleanor Pearlin, Peacefolly
at Lancaster Royal Infirmary
on Towardsy December 20td,
whitow of John, dearly loved
mother of Julia, Rillary and
John and grandmother of
Alexandra, Andrew, John and
Junet. Aged 80 years. Funeral
at Lancaster and Morscanbe
Crématorium 11am Friday at Lancaster and Morscambe Crematorium 11am Friday December 13th Flowers and enquiries to Preston Ireland Bowker (01524) 39656/ 64025.

MORA - Jorge Arturo, on November 22nd died in London after a short illness. Born in Colombia late of Bast Horsley. Former program organiser for the RBC Latin American Service.

BBC Latin American Service, Bush Bouse, Beloved husband of BH Moza, Service at 3:15pm Thursday 12th December, Putusy Valas Camastorium, All enquiries to Frederick W. Paine, 6 Coombe Lame, Baynes Park, SW20 SND, Talasphone 0181 946 1974

64025.

PARE - Fauline, adored wife, mother-in-law, Peaceafully on December 5th at home with her family in Rest Harting, Puneral Service to be held on Thursday 12th December at 12.00 o'clock at St. Mary's Catholic Cherch, Michamst, Flowers care of Linott and Son, (01730) 813264 or done thouse the service, King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst.

SONDER - The bullets

SOURCE - The RI Hon, Henry George Herbert, 5th Harry George Herbert, 5th Harry George Herbert, 5th Harry George Herbert, 5th Harry Sondes. On 2nd December, aged 56, beloved busband of Phylis. After a long battle with cancer. His counties has been a wonderful example to us all. The Funeau Service will take place at 230 pm on Mondey, 7th December at St James's Church, Ebeldwich, att. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Pund London Events, All enquiries and donations to Strutt & Parker, 2 St Mangarets Street. Camenbury, Kent Cil 27P Tei: 01227 451123. A Memorial Service will be held in the New Year. The date and venue will be announced in the near future.

future,

WILKINSOM - Jane Fawcett,
peacefully at home on
Thursday 5th December.

Much loved mother of Sarah
and Mary Jane, sister of
Risabeth and wife of the
hee Allia Wilkinson. Private
creamation followed by
service of Tambagiving at 5:
Feter's, Stearton, on
Wednesday 11th December
at 2,30 pm. Family flowers,
donations to MacMillan
Nurses.

FOR SALE SPARK - Robert Broadbent, of Cohbam, Surrey. Peacefully, after a long illness, on December 3rd, 1996. Beloved imstead of Myrms and father of Stephen. Funeral service at Randall's Park Crematerium, Leathenhead, on Wednesday, December 11th, at 2.30 pm. Flowers, or donations to ENLL, clo Hawkins & Sons, 2 Highlands . Road, Leatherhead (01372 372435). COLLECTOR'S FIEM FREE - UNUSED BOXED PIRELLI CALLENDERS Servet 1973, One each 1990. 1992 and 1993 No reasonably serious offer referred for the boxes! Telephone (91580) 714485 Ansaphone

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HERSHEND - Lord Desmond Berel Dec 6th, My dear husband, the wonderful memories I cherish, the wonderful paintings that memories I cherish, the wonderful paintings that adorn our home. Our life together I cherish with love forever, your wife Lady Reuris. The family Harti in Israel miss Lord Hisrid in Israel miss Lord Hisrid in Israel miss Lord Hisridial very much miss his sense of humour and the wonderful times they had together on every visit. They miss him very much with love and affection.

KINGER - Gwen. Degreet Mum never forgotten and always in our thoughts. Simon, Jeremy, Jane and all the family. NEALE-Professor Sir John and Lady Elfreda. The anniversaries of his birth and her death, symethhered with love, Stalla and Hazry.

ANNOUNCEMENTS [Nell Reversed Walter Vans and Chrise Vans would like to neurol their thanks to the vary many triends and relatives who have shown so much suncum and prayer as the present of their helowal Darly She was a very special person. SERVICES

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HINDN



And Andrews

OBITUARIES

DENIS JENKINSON



Denis Jenkinson (centre) and Stirling Moss celebrate their victory in the 1955 Mille Miglia

Denis Jenkinson, motor racing authority, sportsman and journalist, died on November 29 aged 75. He was born on December 12, 1920.

or half a century Denis Jenkinson was an active and highly respected figure in the world of motor sport. Once aptly described as "an all-time, one-off, practical eccentric", he could count among his legion of friends in the international arena such leading fig-ures as Juan Fangio, Jack Brabham, Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Stirling

Hill cal wives

Vir. Clarke

2.1

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A Comment

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s ademy

It was as Moss's riding navigator that he himself entered the sporting history books, when together they won the now legendary Mille Miglia of 1955. Thanks to the superb driving of Moss and the meticulously accurate, pre-planned navigation instructions of the "lion-hearted" Jenkipson, their Mercedes-Benz SLR300 turned in a record average speed of 97.5 mph for the arduous 1,000 mile course.

"Jenks", as he was almost universally known, had already established his two-wheel and three-wheel credentials

as a successful racing motorcyclist and as the active passenger when, in 1949, he and his rider, Eric Oliver, won the Motorcycle Sidecar World Champion-ship. By that time he was also contributing regular and evocative articles to the pages of Motor Sport.

Born at Honor Oak Park near Lewisham in south London, the son of a senior employee of Thomas Cook and Sons, Denis Sargent Jenkinson received a sound basic training in engineering at the London Regent Street Polytechnic, While there he acquired also an acute, specialist knowledge of all forms of motoring, and began to make wider use of the skill he had always shown as an inveterate diarist.

But by then he had already, at the age of 18, won his spurs as a volunteer mechanic with the two-litre Alta of the Brooklands racing driver (and later fighter-pilot). Robert Cowell. When war came. Jenkinson — just 5ft-

22 in tall - joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough and quickly found himself working as an engine systems development engineer in the aero-engine experimental department. There he worked close to

William Boddy, the future editor of Motor Sport, and they formed a lifelong friendship which was to become part of Jenkinson's working life. With peace, Jenkinson entered seri-

ous motoring journalism, in which he soon showed that he was an acute judge of technical as well as aesthetic merit and that he could submit concise, accurate and often enthralling accounts of events - while taking every opportunity to compete himself.
His work with Bill Boddy ("WB")

helped to build Motor Sport into the leading journal in its sphere, and contributions were soon in demand from Jenkinson from motor magazines everywhere. Meanwhile, away from the motoring scene, he was living alone in a "more than somewhat" basic cottage in Hampshire. It was without running water and lit only by 12-volt car bulbs from a generator and batteries charged by a Flat 500 engine mounted on bricks outside.

A small, cheerful, bearded Puck-like figure of high integrity, he was, however, no recluse. He was never short of girlfriends, though his eccentric, nomadic lifestyle saw to it that he

Each year in the grand prix season Jenkinson would cover the successive events around Europe, living in hotels and driving to his scenes in the latest sports cars, which served a double purpose as both means of transport and the subjects of careful assessment for an eager press. In all of this the breadth of his enthusiasms never waned - whether for Brooklands, Millbrook, Goodwood, Le Mans, Monza, Concorde or the Harrier.

Those pleasures extended to the purchase of the historic, ex-Ferrari 4.4 litre, straight-eight Duesenberg car which, driven by Whimey Straight in the 1930s, had lapped Brooklands at 138mph. Jenks found it lying abandoned with its engine removed. He promptly acquired the dilapidated car for E75, traced the engine elsewhere, largely restored them himself and returned them to Brooklands for safekeeping and display in the Brooklands Museum Club House. He generously left them to the Brooklands Trust in his will.

After a stroke in January of this year, Jenks lived out his last months at the British Motor Industry (BEN) Nursing Home at Sunninghill.

PHILIPPA SAVERY

Philippa Savery, campaigner for the conscrivation of Bath died on November 27 aged 93. She was born on January 31, 1903.

PHILIPPA SAVERY was a diminutive but doughty frontline fighter in the battle for Bath in the 1960s and early 1970s. In those bonanza years. although masterpieces such as the Royal Crescent and Circus were safe, buildozers cut swaths through row upon row of lesser Georgian gems.

Almost single-handedly at

first. Savery took on a city council committed to comprehensive development and which, guided by an industrial psychologist, had hired a chief planner from Hemel Hemp stead who felt that the 20th century should leave its own mark on the Woods' achievement. So 18th-century terraces were swept away for the inevitable shopping mall, multistorey car parks and high-rise flats. Why, argued the man from the New Town, should residents of Bath be denied the up-to-date delights

of Birmingham?
Savery campaigned against the planners from a Georgian house in the shadow of Bath Abbey, where her cobwebbed devotion to the past, including a preference for candles and oil-lamps, would have made Miss Havisham feel at home. It was also home to hundreds of pigeons. She carried her battle-cry to

save Bath beyond its boundaries, enlisting Sir John Betjeman among her allies, and by 1972 the destruction of a heritage city became a national issue through Adam Fergusson's articles in The Times, followed by his book The Sack of Bath, with alarming photographic evidence

supplied by Snewdon.
Philippa Katherine Savery
was born of Somerset parents and brought up in Vienna and Paris, where her father was an actuary. She was a WAAF officer in the Second World War and afterwards set up as an antiques dealer in Bath. where her grandfather had lived in the house once occupied by Beau Nash. She herself followed in the Winkle in tweeds and brogues she bustled about the city. briskly bullying supporters, buttonholing councillors and developers, organising petitions and distributing propaganda, often at the wheel of a Bullnose Morris she had bought in 1929. She eventually acquired the

eccentrics. Like a Mrs Tiggy-

rich tradition

whole of the house where she had rented a room in 1946, and finally gave it to the Landmark Trust. Here she stored artefacts rescued from the demolition gangs, took in paying guests and still dab-bled in antiques until she rebelled against VAT.

Ironically, the cost of cru-sading left little cash for maintaining a Grade II listed building. Undaunted, she kept up Georgian appearances by ingenious DIY. Metal coathangers could be bent to resemble the scalloped glazing-bars of a fanlight; a rubber ball painted black replaced the missing part of a finial on wrought-iron railings. When not locked in combat

with planners, Savery would berate owners whose dogs fouled Abbey Green, pursuing them with paper bags and sometimes a shovel. Or she would crusade against culling the city's pigeon population. pleading for birth-control in-stead. She devised a feed

formula which she claimed had contraceptive properties. But most of her half-century in Bath was spent trying to stop the erosion of a complete Georgian city. If necessary. she lought conservationists themselves — as when Bath Preservation Trust endorsed the Buchanan plan for a traffic tunnel under the city. This was a bitter battle, but under a fresh chairman, Sir Christo-

pher Chancellor, the trust managed a painful U-turn. . Miss Philippa, as she was known — she never married was regarded as affectionately by her foes as by the down-and-outs whom she regularly fed and cared for in Abbey Churchyard; her compassion embraced lame ducks as well

as pigeons. She lived to see the local climate change in favour of preserving what remained of Bath's architectural uniqueness and whole areas at one time destined for destruction were spared for posterity. It was her determination to turn the tide that inspired others to join the fight and bring vic-

But to Savery the battle for Bath was never over. Six months before she died, in a residential home after suffering several paralysing strokes, she told her niece: "We need a national effort to save Bath. I really should be doing more."

the Opera, persuaded her back there. She had to start

again at her old rank of junior

soloist, but within months she

won for herself, in open com-

petition, the coveted role of Giselle — previously the pre-serve of Russian guest stars

Olga Spessivtseva and Mari-

Thereafter Darsonval

joyed two decades as one of the

company's stars. Speed and

lightness were her special

qualities, making her well suited to ballets like Sylvia

and Coppelia. But she also

had many roles created for her

by Lifar (including two of the

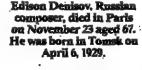
solos in his finest work, Suite

en blanc), by Balanchine (the

first movement of Symphony in C) and Albert Aveline.

na Semyonova.

EDISON DENISOV



WHEN, towards the end of Khrushchev's reign, Soviet cultural policy became more open, Edison Denisov was one of the young composers to take advantage, and so find himself welcomed to the bosom of the Western European avantgarde. Pierre Boulez conducted his Le soleil des Incas for soprano and ensemble in Brussels in 1966, after which his works began to appear regularly on the programmes of modern music festivals.

In retrospect, though, his triumph as a Modernist looks to have been due to a misapprehension, even if his anagrammatical name — Edison V. Denisov — might have predestined him for a life as a serialist composer.

The 12-note series was always for him a source not of new structural thinking but of melodic motifs that would be repeated over and over again (a mournful descending phrase became almost a personal signature). Even such relatively early works as his orchestral Peinture (1970) express a deep continuity with the Shostakovich tradition of

tragic pathos. What made his music particularly individual was his combination of Shostakovich's brooding, lonely manner with a very sensuous orchestral style - a combination that could evoke comparison with Surrealist painting, and that allowed him (occasionally with the help of his feeling for



jazz) to respond to a vein of unillusioned eroticism in French literature from Baudelaire to the present day.

He was, indeed, a serious Francophile. Many of his works, including his operas L'écume des jours after Boris Vian (1981) and Les quatre jeunes filles after Picasso (1986), were set to French texts, and many more were written for French musicians. Once his Western prestige had brought him the liberty to travel, he divided his time between Paris and Moscow.

Edison Vasiyevich Denisov studied mathematics at Tomsk University, 1946-51, but during that time he was already looking towards a musical career, and sent some compositions to Shostakovich. who encouraged him to study with Vissarion Shebalin at the Moscow Conservatory.

On completing his post-graduate studies there in 1959. he was appointed to the staff, and from 1961 he taught orchestration. His access to Western music and musicians was unique at the conservatory, and his importance as a teacher will become more

evident as more of his pupils

gain an international airing.

His reputation, though, can stand on his compositions. He wrote music of all kinds: operas and other scores for the theatre (including several for Yuri Lyubimov's Taganka company), symphonic pieces, choral works, songs and scenas, chamber music and sonatas. Although he published little before his midthirties, he was prolific thereafter: the list of his concertos, for example, includes work for cello (1972), piano (1974), flute (1975), violin (1977), flute and oboe (1979), bassoon and cello (1982), viola (1985). oboe (1986) and sazaphone (1993, a reworking of his viola

He also found time to complete the works of others. His version of Debussy's opera Rodrigue et Chimène was staged in Lyons in 1993, and one of his last achievements was to finish Schubert's oratorio Lazarus. Both of these have been recorded, as have many of his original works. Writing so much, he ran the

risk of being repetitious but he made a virtue of that potential fault by conceiving each work as a different voyage around the same objects, among which might be found — together with that downward phrase - the D major chord and quotations from Schubert. The former, one of whose appearances is as the goal of his Symphony (1988), he saw as signifying light — "both real light (the sun) and the colours of the lux aeterna". As for Schubert, whose Impromptu in A flat provides the subject the finale of the viola/saxophone concerto, Denisov revered him, in terms which recall Tchaikovsky's veneration of Mozart, as "a

symbol of music and of that which is eternal in art". Edison Denisov was badly injured in a car accident two years ago near Moscow. He had since undergone a series of operations in Paris, but his health had never recovered. He is survived by his second wife, whom he married in 1987, and their two daughters. and by a son and daughter from an earlier marriage which was dissolved.

Lycette Darsonval, ballerina, died in St-Lô, Normandy, on Novembe 1 aged 84. She was born

Alice Perron at Contances on February 12, 1912.

WHEN the BBC recruited dancers for a broadcast of The Sleeping Beauty in January 1952, its most ambitious television ballet until then. Lvcette Darsonval was brought from Paris to play the lead. The production, by Christian Simpson, was on a grand scale (as far as studio facilities then permitted), with special effects by the silhouette artist Lotte

The French ballerina was not an obvious choice: the Paris Opéra then had only a digest version of the ballet, so she had never danced the full role of Aurora. But the historian C. W. Beaumont, who was brought in as an adviser to the production, found her "a charming woman with a quick brain" who readily met all requirements, and she was much praised in the part,

Darsonval's career was an eventful one. Brought to Paris when her parents moved from Normandy, she was persuaded at the age of 12 to study ballet at the Opera by someone who had seen her dancing to a street organ in Montmartre. As soon as she joined the company, her liveliness and brilliant technique singled her out, but she was notoriously undisciplined. Failing to get promotion as quickly as she thought she deserved, she resigned at 18, married and travelled widely in equatorial Africa.

LYCETTE DARSONVAL



But once back in Paris she returned to the ballet studios, perfected her virtuosity, won first prize in an international ballet competition in Warsaw,

again, including tours with an émigré Russian company (where she danced the classic leads) and with the illustrious Serge Lifar. Lifar, then ballet director at and was soon performing

Some of these roles, too, were seen on BBC television. Her official farewell was made at a gala in 1959, after which she received on stage from André Malraux (then Minister of Culture) the Légion d'honneur. For two years previously she had also directed the ballet school of the

Opéra, and went on to teach at

the Nice Conservatoire. Darsonval was one of France's most popular ballerinas, not least because, in addition to her duties at the Opéra, she toured regional towns with her own group. She was the first woman to do choreography at the Opéra (La Nuit vénitienne in 1939), and in 1979 she mounted a splendid revival of Sylvia there. She also gave "performance lectures" for the Sorbonne about three centuries of dance, and later developed this theme into a touring programme for her own group.

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Gian Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1598; Allan Cunningham, writer, Keir, Dumfriesshire, 1784; Sir Redvers Buller, VC, general, Crediton, Devon, 1839; Sir Joseph Cook, Prime Minister of Australia 1913-14, Silverdale, Staffordshire, 1860; Pietro Mascagni, composer, Leghorn, 1863; Willa Cather, novelist, Winchester, Virginia, 1873; Rudolf Frimi, composer, Prague, 1879; Stuart Davis, painter, Philadelphia, 1894.

DEATHS: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman, executed, Formia, Italy, 43 BC: Meindert Hobbema, landscape painter, Amsterdam, 1709; Michel Ney, commander of Napoleon's Old Guard, shot for high treason, Paris, 1815; William Bligh, admiral, Captain of

HMS Bounty, London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1826; Edward Irving, founder of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Suez Canal, La Chenaie, Belgium. 1894; Kirsten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962; Thornton Wildcr, novelist and dramatist, New Haven, Connecticut, 1975; Robert Graves, poet and novelist, Deya, Majorca, 1985: Roy Orbison, singer, Nash-ville, Tennessee, 1988. The Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, opened, 1732. William Pitt the Younger.

aged 24, became the youngest British Prime Minister, 1783.

Pearl Harbor was bombed by

Japanese aircraft; the follow-

ing day Britain, Australia and

America declared war on Ja-

pan, 1941.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: Horace, Quintus Horatius Flaccus, Roman poet, Venusia, southern Italy. 65 BC; Mary Queen of Scots, reigned 1542-67, Linlithgow. 1542; Queen Christina of Sweden reigned 1644-54, Stock-holm, 1626; Eli Whitney, pioneer of the cotton gin, Westborough, Massachusetts. 1765: Bjornstjerne Bjornson, novelist and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1903, Kvikne, Norway, 1832; Aristide Maillol, sculptor, Banyuis-sur-Mer. 1861; Georges Feydeau, dramatist, Paris, 1862; Jean Sibelius, composer. Hameenlinn, Finland, 1865; Norman Douglas, essayist and novelist, Thuringen, Austria, 1868; Padraic Colum, poet, Longford, Co Longford, 1881; James Thurber, humorous writer, Columbus, Ohio, 1894; Jim

Morrison, singer and poet, Melbourne, Florida, 1943. DEATHS: Adriaan Willaert, composer, Venice, 1562; John Pym, leader of the opposition to King Charles I, London, 1643; Richard Baxter, Presbyterian writer, London 1691; Thomas de Quincey, writer, Edinburgh, 1859: Herbert Spencer, philosopher, Brighton, 1903; Gertrude Jekyll. gardener and landscape architect, Godalming, Surrey, 1932; Simon Marks, Baron Marks of Broughton, retail trade leader, London, 1964; Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel 1969-74, Jerusalem, 1978; John Lennon, singer and songwriter, shot, Manhattan, 1980. Pope Pius IX declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary to be an Article of Faith, 1854.

IRISH FREE STATE. PEACE TERMS IN FULL. (By Our Parliamentary Correspondent.)

The Irish Agreement will be submitted to the British Parliament for ratification by both Houses next Wednesday . . . It is the ratification of the Agreement with

which the Government is immediately con-cerned in summoning Parliament. The framing of the Act which must also be passed through Parliament will follow at more leisure. The first essential, after the Sinn Fein Government has accepted the terms of the settlement, is that they should also be accepted by the Parliament of Great Britain. The intention in setting up the Irish Free State is to follow the Parliamentary procedure adopted in 1800 for carrying the Union. The principal difference must be that, whereas in 1800 the primary Act was passed in the Irish Parliament, the reverse order must now be followed and the Act creating the Irish Free State must originate and be passed by the British Parliament, and accepted and worked by the Irish Parliament....

With the ratification of the Agreement in Dublin and in London the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland will begin at once, and it is expected that the withdrawal will have been completed by the time the

ON THIS DAY

December 7, 1921 **举**处据3处

The first article of the Treaty provided that Ireland should have Dominion status. The Treaty split the nationalists and civil war broke out, during which Michael Collins was killed. The Irish Free State came into existence on December 6, 1922.

forthcoming legislation has been carried. It is evidently the intention that there shall be no British troops remaining in the Irish Free State from the date when the Irish Covernment takes over the control of Irish affairs. As in the case of the Northern Parliament, the transfer of powers must occupy a little time; but the first powers transferred will be those

There was in Government quarters vecterday a manifest feeling of relief and of relaxation after months of anxiety over Ireland. The negotiations with Mr. de Valera began last July—five months ago—and

of law and order.

the keen and detailed negotiations with the Sinn Fein delegation opened on November 11, nearly two months ago. There was a complete lack of optimism in the Cabinet when the last phase of the negotiations began. It is no secret that the Prime Minister, after his encounters with Mr. de Valera, was afraid that he would be dealing with idealists and theorists whom it would be impossible to bring down to the

discussion of hard and concrete political facts.

He and his colleagues in the Cabinet made their reckoning without a knowledge of Mr. Michael Collins. The fact is that nobody in this country did know Mr. Collins. Even Dublin Castle was not aware of the manner of man that he is, and it is said that Castle authorities were so little aware of his identity that he could appear openly in public without risk of being recognized as the head of the Irish Republican Army. There was no better knowledge of his character than of his physical appearance. In the negotiations, he has been revealed as the possessor of a keen and incisive mind, with a quick grasp of situations and possibilities and, matched against three of the acutest intellects in the against three of the accuses intensess in the Covernment—those of the Prime Minister, the Lord Chancellor, and the Antomey-General—he has held his own and maintained Ireland's cause...

Major loses Commons majority

■ John Major's fragile Commons majority was wiped out after a maverick Tory MP withdrew his support from the party, accusing ministers of "distorting promises" over hospital care.

Sir John Gorst announced that ministers should not expect his backing and refused to commit himself to keeping the Conservatives in power in a confidence vote Pages 1, 20, 21

Royal Academy in cash crisis

■ The Royal Academy admitted that it faces "serious financial problems" after it was revealed that it has a deficit of £3.2 million. Ernst & Young, the accountants who were called in by the academy's solicitors, have been unable to complete the audit for the year ending September 30, 1996

Henman hopes

Tim Henman could earn almost £1 million for a week's work if he wins the Grand Slam tennis cup in Munich. He plays Boris Becker in the semi-finals today... Pages L 48 Coroner's call

A coroner called for reforms to police training after a verdict of accidental death on a black burglary suspect... Aircraft noise

Airlines won High Court approval for a legal challenge to government proposals for a clampdownPage 4 on aircraft noise

Cattle cull

Approval for a targeted cull of older cattle aimed at eradicating "mad cow" disease is expected next week. .Page 8

Football fans shot

Two Manchester United supporters were shot in Vienna while celebrating the team's 2-0 European Cup victoryPage 9

Marine money

Sea caves and seals, dolphins and the soft coral sea fans are to get better protection after winning a . Page 12 European grant....

Bomb memorial

Hiroshima's atom-bomb dome has been added to Unesco's list of World Heritage sites, despite American objections Page 13

Miami vice

Miami is facing bankruptcy after a civic scandal in which its top administrator was arrested on corruption charges

Hebron hitch

A plan for Binyamin Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat to meet and finalise a deal on Hebron hit new

French scandal Magistrates investigating French political funding closed in on the Gaullist personnel chief and the Paris Mayor's wife...... Page 16

Court pulls plug on liquid lunch

The role of alcohol in the modern business lunch came under scrutiny after a television executive lost his damages claim against a company doctor who advised that his drinking habits barred him from a lucrative job...



these last days before election. year, the Tory party presents a cracked and crumbling face to the nation... When in Rome: The separate features of Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism, if recog-

... Page 21 Meshonsland: Four Whitehall ways to look at a severtwicket defeat. Page 21

nised and respected, can be a

force that strengthens God's

Homosexuality; church

stays still. For the Conservative parliamentary Party. a wait-and-see policy on the single currency is becoming wholly implausible.. Page 20 Derwent May: writing a novel review is worse than writing a haiku — it is like writing a bonsai haiku Page 20

Denis Jenkinson, motor racing authority: Philippa Savery, Bath conservationist; Edison Denisov, composer; Lycette Darsonval, French

Up in the sir: BA could face a monopolies commission inquiry into its proposed American Airlines link...... Page 25 Hard life: GEC said the strong pound was making life difficult..... Page 25 Northern Bustrie CE Electric raised its offer for Northern Electric. Its bid was once again rejected Page 25 Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed 88.2 points down at 3963.0. Sterling's tradeweighted index rose from 91.8

to 92.0, after a rise from

\$1.6270 to \$1.6488 but a fall

to

drizzle. Wind east or southeast, light

from DM2.5295

Cricket: England's tour players are trying hard to get over their humiliation by lowly Mashonaland . Pages 42, 48 Footbell: Leeds United have agreed a £2.7million fee for John Scales Pages 46-48 Teanle: Tim Herman faces his toughest test in Boris Rugby union: Rob Andrew may today play his last game

Ford's Ka - tacky but groovy

at Twickenham, for the Bar-

barians against the Austra-

De Vil incamate: Glenn Easy Retening: 100 best Page 43

Weekend

Hovis land: Supermarket divides town Pages 1, 2



Property: Norfolk Broads: Clerkenwell Pages 8-10 Home life. Pets for allergic families Page 12

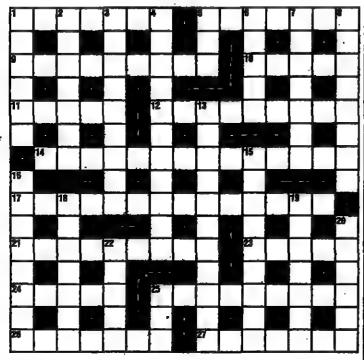
Millen dollar berg: We meet Bill Gates Page 10



What's on Pages 13-2 TV & radio ... Pages 23-5

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,345

A limited edition. 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.



ACROSS

Spar, ultimately, with police – then produce weapon (?).

5 Interrupt attempt to cover tracks after reverse (7). 9 Other people with top cards overwhelmed by somebody intent

on gain (2,3,4). 10 Record sound that's heard (5). Il Stick around before opening of

theatre's play (5). 12 Prompt use could be made of this

14 Return of youth not required by Pan? (14).

17 Those cleaning up joint found offensive weapons (14).
21 Baseball player in pants and jumper, perhaps (9).

23 Butterfly, in a word (5). 24 Advertisement that's accepted by society for so long (5).

25 Was Captain Singleton initially made to be salt? (9).

26 Raise opposing card-players by a fraction of a pound, originally (7). 27 Railwaymen mostly see railway as growth area (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,339

up (7).
You and I will head south in a van
in fearful condition (9).
Evaluation made by certain
people, in essence (11).

It's said some precipitation expected (3).

rented (5).

7 One fabulous equine creature, or three harnessed together (7).

8 Swimmer is round about 21, separated (8).

13 Belief in 12, possibly (11).

15 Frolic of councillor brought about storm in a teacup (3,1,5).

16 Cloudy picture of island — stratus's beginning to cover the interior (8).

18 Post hat seen on an idealist (7).

Posh hat seen on an idealist (7). Enrolled in engineers, soldiers start to suffer regret (7).

20 Writer holding on to money?
Only just (6).
22 It may symbolise one for a digital computer (5). Woman who's succeeded Ambas-

sador (3). Solution to Puzzle No 20,344

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Name (Nison Discomber 10) London 3.52 pm to 7.53 am Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.03 am Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.30 am Menchester 3.50 pm to 8.20 am Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.08 am TOMORROV

London 3.52 pm to 7.54 am Brietol 4.02 pm to 8.04 am Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.31 em Manchesser 3.50 pm to 8.13 am Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.09 am

11:15 11:06 430 830 4:15 303 8:34 9:24 9:51 9:07 7:54 3:49 3:49 4:01

General: England and Wales will have an overcast start with log in many grass. Some weak sunshins will break through. Drizzle is likely in the southeast. Winds will be mostly light, and it will be rather cold.

Eastern parts of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a bright morning but rain will apread across, preceded by snow on hills. Heavier spells are likely in the north and west. It will be quite windy but will gredually become milder from the southwest.

☐ London, SE England, E Anglie, Central 8 England, E Midlendes overcast, patchy drizzie. Wind east or southeast, mainly light. Mex 8C (46F). ☐ E England, W Midlende, SW England, S Wales, Central N England: sumy intervale but persistent fog. Wind mainly southeast, light. Rather cold. Mex 8C (43F). ☐ Chennel Islee: cloudy with rain or

southerly, strong or gale. mild, Max 10C (50F).

Outbeic some rain in the north. Otherwise, suriny intervals where fog

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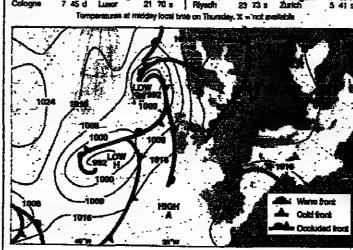
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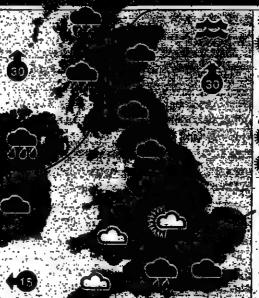
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Changes to the chart above from noon: high A will keep a static central pressure and extend northeastwards; low W is expected to drift across lookand and fill slightly; low H will track east and deepen.

even use quante or the Supplied. Was believed to industrial



Richard Mordage Sir De-

nis Makon has shaken the

art world by threatening

not to leave the nation his

painlings as a protest. The

trouble is we've heard

him say it too many times

Trojen hourse: The RSC

has decided to play Troilus

and Cressida for laughs.

The result is not so much

funny as fussy Page 19

Please enese: The Talking

Heads are reborn as the

Heads, without their ec-

centric front man David

____ Page 19

Byrne

Cloudy Drizzie

18 .

HONEY MAGE FURAL BABES

THYME GUIDE Rearrange the order of the above words and place them horizontally in the grid. If placed correctly two words can then be read ersically in each of the sheded COMMINS. What ere the words?

If you can solve this pazzle you could be digitle to just Merica, the high 12 society.

Cot the coupon for listless details and a copy of the hell. Post in : Maney, PREEPOST, Woland

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mildwide p

INSIDE **SECTION**

TODAY



BUSINESS

£160 million shake-up in the pipeline PAGE 26

Monday T∣uesday ∪ ednesday

WORKING WEEK

Clothing king who courts controversy **PAGE 27**



SPORT

Andrew prepares for parting shot at Twickenham **PAGES 40-48**

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF TEESSIDE **PAGE**

27

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

Lang orders two airlines to surrender 168 slots a week at Heathrow

Price set for BA link to AA

BRITISH AIRWAYS and American Airlines must Eurrender 168 take-off and landing slots a week at Heathrow if they are to proceed with their alliance. The high price for the link-

up between the two most powerful airlines on the North Atlantic was demanded by Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade, who threatened to refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Com-mission if the airlines fail to agree to the conditions. Last night BA indicated it was ready to accept.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said details of the proposals had already been

4.7856 (1/25.34)

discussed with the regulator. . The permanent, unconditional divestiture of slots is unprecedented and if done it must be on the basis of fair market value," he said, "We have always accepted that carriers would need adequate access to Heathrow. BA has indicated that it is prepared to ... assist the introduction of additional competition."

But rival airlines argued that the demands do not go far enough and will continue to press for a full referral to the MMC. Richard Branson, head of Virgin, said: "The cosy monopoly that BA and American want to create will eventually end up being referred to

the MMC. It always was fundamentally anti-competitive and we are delighted that Mr Lang agrees."
United Airlines said that it was no more than "a step in the right direction" and fell

petition at Heathrow. After studying the planned alliance - regarded by some as a near merger that would create a monopoly on many key transariantic routes — the Office of Fair Trading advised Mr Lang that the link should be referred to the MMC. But instead, Mr Lang has asked Trading to explore whether

short of achieving proper com-

died by undertakings as an A year later a further 28 alternative to reference". Mr Lang said that if the planned alliance went ahead unchecked it could lead to a

loss of competition "particularly for time-sensitive, mainly A number of other condibusiness passengers on those routes where BA and AA currently compete, and for all passengers between the United Kingdom and the United

States in general". He insisted that before any approval could be given to such a deal the two carriers would have to give up 168 takeoff and landing slots a week, with 70 released for the 1997

slots would be "leased" to competing airlines on a temporary basis and revert back once they had acquired slots for themselves.

tions were also laid down, including allowing "third-party" access to the two airlines' requent flyer programmes. The 168 slots a week de-

mand actually means that only 12 services a day would be affected. One pair of slots per day would have to be handed to competitors on the London to Dallas route, and another pair on the London to Boston

Under the proposed alliance

the two would arrange their take-off times to fit in with each other to create a regular service across the Atlantic and share both the costs and the profits. They argue that this would create greater choice for passengers throughout Europe and keep both Heathrow and Britain at the forefront of world aviation. But bilateral talks on the air service agreement between Britain and America broke up yesterday

without agreement. Even if the two airlines agree to abide by Mr Lang's conditions, they must still satisfy the US Department of Justice and the European

£1.5m payoff

'a pittance'

ANDREW COOK, chief executive of William Cook, the

engineering firm, stands to receive ELS million in compen-

sation if his company falls to the £58 million hostile bid

from Triplex Lloyd, its rival.

spective payoff as "a pittance". He said that he had no moral

qualms about his five-year

contract, and did not regard

£1.5 million as sufficient com-

pensation for losing control of

the company that his family

"It's a pretty small price to

pay for losing your life's work," Mr Cook said. "I don't

In a defence document issued yesterday, William Cook described the Triplex Lloyd

bid as "ludicrously cheap",

and ignored its investment

Triplex's offer of 309p a share is 28 per cent above William Cook's pre-bid mar-

think its excessive at all."

founded in 1902.

Mr Cook described the pro-

Prospective

WEEKEND PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



SOCIETY

Anne Ashworth on money in the school curriculum

PROPERTY MARKET

Could your

PENSIONS

INSURANCE

cover payout?

ME: A suitable

case for a health

Your pension

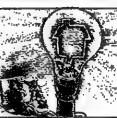
options when

you change jobs

building society

be next to convert?

Brighter still? The prospects for prices in 1997



Greenspan triggers worldwide plunge on stock markets

By Our Business and Foreign Staff

day plunged after Alan Green-span, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, issued a warning about the dangers of "irrational exuberance" in pushing

share prices ever higher. His remarks in Washington on Thursday night triggered panic selling in Tokyo, Hong Kong, then London and continental European markets before moving on to Wall Street.

In London the FT-SE 100 index of leading shares fell almost 170 points at one stage. In New York the Dow Jones industrial average plunged 143 points in the first two hours, but then recovered smartly after figures showing a rise in US unemployment which al-Bryed fears of higher American

At the close, the FT-SE had recovered to a loss of 88.2 points, finishing at 3.963. This was still the biggest one-day fall since October 5, 1992, after sterling had to leave the ERM.
In New York, Mr Greenspan's evident discomort with Wall Street's rise of 25

THE WAY SE

per cent this year sparked a day

FISE 100 3963.0 (-88.2) Vield 4.02* FISE All share 1942.22 (-41.51) 19409 20276.70 (-687.20) 6380.05 (-57.0Z)* 737.80 (-6.58)* 3-neth Interbank . 6" w% (6" an)

1,6417 (1,6275) 2,5287 (2,5336) 8,5332 (8,5480) 2,1443 (2,1441) 185,03 (183,18) 92,0 (91,8)

Toligio close Yen 112.03

Brent 15-day (Feb) \$23.35 (\$23.90) ondon close \$369.66 (\$370.00) bonds swung into negative territory and back while the dollar slumped on fears that US markets are heading for a stock market crash similar to that in 1987. Yestenday's fall on Wall Street followed drops of more than 70 points on Tues-

day and Wednesday. This is edge-of-the-seat stuff," said one US fund manager. "You can't stop concentrating for a second with the market like this. It's great if you're making money but terrible if you're not."

By mid-session, Wall Street

about 60 points, helped by news that US unemployment had risen to 5.4 per cent from 5.2 per cent, proof that the economy is not overheating. In London, George Magnus, chief international econo-

mist at UBS, said: This will prove to be a storm in a tea up. It is not the beginning of a meltdown. Mr Greenspan just issued a euphoria warning. London turnover of 726 million shares was low, suggesting yesterday's events had been more of a damage limitation exercise than a concerted sell-off. Traders in London

Investors in

MG could

get £300m By ROSERT MILLER

MORE than 90,000 investors

in Morgan Grenfell's trou-

bled European unit trusts

may receive total compensa-

Morgan Grenfell, owned by

Deutsche Bank, promised compensation when three

European funds suspended trading after alleged irregu-larities came to light. Peter Young manager of two of the

trusts, was sacked for "gross misconduct" and is being

investigated by the Serious

Imro, the fund managers

watchdog, is looking at the

use of investors' money to buy

shares in illiquid unquoted stocks in breach of City rules.

An Imro letter, which inves-

tors have sent to The Times.

states: "It is clear that pay-

ment is due to those investors

who suffered as a result of

these investments ... We are

currently finalising with Mor-

gan Grenfell the correct meth-

od of calculating the amounts due to individual investors

and hope to announce the method before Christmas."

Franci Office.

tion of up to £300 million.

WORLD stock markets yester-day plunged after Alan Green-leading markets. Stocks and tion on Wall Street for a while. Bob Semple, NatWest Mardoes show us that the markets are very pervous and after a good, long bull run, people are begining to look for a correc-tion. On the evidence to date, it

could come from Wall Street." Wall Street analysts said the Fed chairman had been deliberately talking the stock mar-ket down from levels which he

considered dangerously high. "People are primed to sell and they were just looking a reason," said Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenhei-mer. This time it could be a

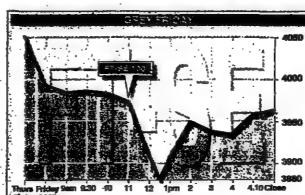
significant setback. Yesterday's wild swings in share prices showed the uncertainty of investors over whether the market's strength can be maintained. Mr Greenspan said the Fed had to factor the activity on stock markets into its decisions on interest rates. Its policymaking committee is expected to leave interest rates unchanged

when it meets on December 17. In Germany shares fell 4 per cent from a record on Thursday, but traders ap-

peared relatively relaxed. In France, an already fragile stock exchange was sent into tailspin. The CAC-40 index fell 4 per cent at the start of trading but recovered a little to close 3 per cent down.



Screens turned red as traders offloaded stocks and bonds



Northern rejects raised US bid

BY MARTIN WALLER

CALENERGY, the American energy concern bidding for Northern Electric, has offered an olive branch in the shape of a 20p-a-share increase in the value of its bid, to meet an immediate stern rejection from its quarry.

The final cash offer for Northern, the electricity distributor covering northeast England, came in at 650p a share, or 105p cash for each preference share, valuing the company at £782 million, with CalEnergy arguing that the alternative was a collapse in Northern's share price. However, the new terms had little impact in yesterday's tumbling stock market, Northern shares

rising by just 12 p, to 602 2 p. Analysis are convinced that the CalEnergy offer will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission later this month by Ian Lang. President of the Board of Trade, on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading. The higher offer was put together before yestexday's

stock market plunge. Some

analysts had been looking for an increased offer of about 670p a share. David Sokol, chairman of CE Electric, the CalEnergy vehicle launching the bid, admitted that the worth of the new bid had been held down by the 6 per cent fall in the value of the dollar since the first offer was made. at the end of October. However, he added: 'My

guess is that it's a bit more than the market was expecting, but a bit less than Northern was hoping for. What we have tried to do is to end the speculation as to what's going to happen." The new offer closes on December 20.

David Morris, the Northern chairman, said the latest terms represented an inadequate premium for control over the price at which his company should be valued on the market. He said that CalEnergy had "ignored the new informstion provided, and it is still looking to buy Northern Electric on the cheap".

Sony aims to create

1,000 jobs

SONY yesterday announced a £50 million expansion programme that will create 1,000 jobs over the next two years at its South Wales plants in Bridgend and Pencoed.

The Japanese company will introduce a new production line that will make cathode ray tubes for 28in and 32in wide screen televisions.

Sony employs 4,000 people in South Wales. This latest investment is the company's eighth expansion since setting up in Wales in 1973. Over the 23 years, Sony has

invested £300 million in the principality. That is part of the £25 billion spent in Wales over the past ten years by inward investors who have ananded in the country. Sony's Weish plants are the

company's largest facilities in Europe. They produce 1.6 million colour televisions a year, 2.4 million carhode ray tubes and 800,000 display monitors. Eighty-five per cent of this output is exported. Forty small and medium sized Welsh

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ownership structure at

Framatom, the French nuclear

engineering business in which

it has a 50 per cent stake via a

French subsidiary. The

French Government is op-

posed to GEC holding such a

stake. David Newlands, the

finance director, said GEC

would insist on having as

much management influence

as possible if its stake was to

Lord Weinstock, who now

holds the title of chairman

emeritus, recently said:

"Framatom is an important

operation because nuclear

power will become an alterna-

tive again. There are going to

be new nuclear construction

programmes even though

there are none at the moment.

GEC Alsthom will have a

good card to play with

Framatom.

shrink to 49 per cent.



charge for restructuring

By OLIVER AUGUST

GEC, the industrial group, is to spend E160 million on a restructuring programme in the first substantial move by George Simpson, the new chief executive.

Interim results, already depressed by the restructuring charge, were also affected by the soaring pound, which is hurting GEC's export poten-tial. Pre-tax profits fell from £402 million to £261 million in the six months to September 30 and earnings per share were 5.5p, down from 9.1p.

The interim dividend was raised from 3.1p to 3.26p and will be paid on March 27. Of the £160 million to be

spent on restructuring, £45 million will go on imposing up to 1,000 job losses at AG Power Transmission and Hazeltine Corporation, two recent US acquisitions. Improvements at existing divisions will account for £65 million.

A further £50 million is to be

spent on adjusting the book solution to the change of values of two unnamed businesses, which GEC hopes to sell by Christmas. Lord Prior, the chairman,

said the group was carrying out a fundamental review of all aspects of its activities and management structure in the wake of the appointment of Mr Simpson, who replaced Lord Weinstock, GEC's driving force for many years. Lord Prior said: The recent

strengthening of sterling is adding to the difficulties of exporting from the UK and, if sustained, will reduce the earnings, when expressed in sterling, of our overseas businesses and joint ventures. Nevertheless, the group's record order book, strong cash position and the excellence of its key businesses continue to give the board every confidence in the prospects for

GEC is still looking for a

Modest rise in output at factories

By JANET BUSH

BRITISH manufacturing industry continued its modest recovery from this year's stagnation in October, as firms enjoyed the fruits of greater consumer demand.

Manufacturing output grew by 0.5 per cent compared with September, according to the Office for National Statistics. Taking the last three months compared with the previous three, the sector has grown by 0.4 per cent. However, since the same three months a year ago, manufacturing is still only 0.1 per cent higher, a mark of the long months when firms were saddled with huge unwanted stockpiles.

Industrial production, which includes the North Sea and energy sectors, fell mar-ginally by 0.1 per cent in October. In the three months to October, compared with the previous three, industrial production was flat but 0.7 per cent higher than a year ago. Oil extraction as well as production of electricity, gas

and water were all lower. The Treasury commented: The optimism of recent business surveys is now feeding into strengthening manufac-



Philip McDanell, left, Chrysalis managing director, and Chris Wright, chairman, yesterday when the media group declared a £5.36 million pre-tax loss in the year to August 31 (£1 million pre-tax profit previously) and a 2.75p final dividend (same)

Wolves revives beer margins

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries, which serves one of the cheapest pints in the country, revealed esterday that it has been able to push up retail prices to restore damaged beer mar-gins (Alasdair Murray writes). The company announced a per cent rise in full-year preTurnover increased 8.5 per cent to £250 million, while capital expenditure more than doubled to £66 million. The retail division, which

includes 656 pubs, increased operating profits 16 per cent to £35 million, achieving a 0.4 per cent rise in volumes. Food sales rose 17.3 per cent. Profits 9.5 per cent to £9.1 million. A

final dividend of 11p is payable on January 31, lifting the total payout by 11 per cent to 17p.

David Miller, chairman

said Wolves would see the benefits of its investment progranime coming through in the new financial year and that rising consumer expenditure is helping to boost vol-

City costs inquiry averted

By JASON NISSE

AN INOUIRY into how the City raises money for companies has been temporarily

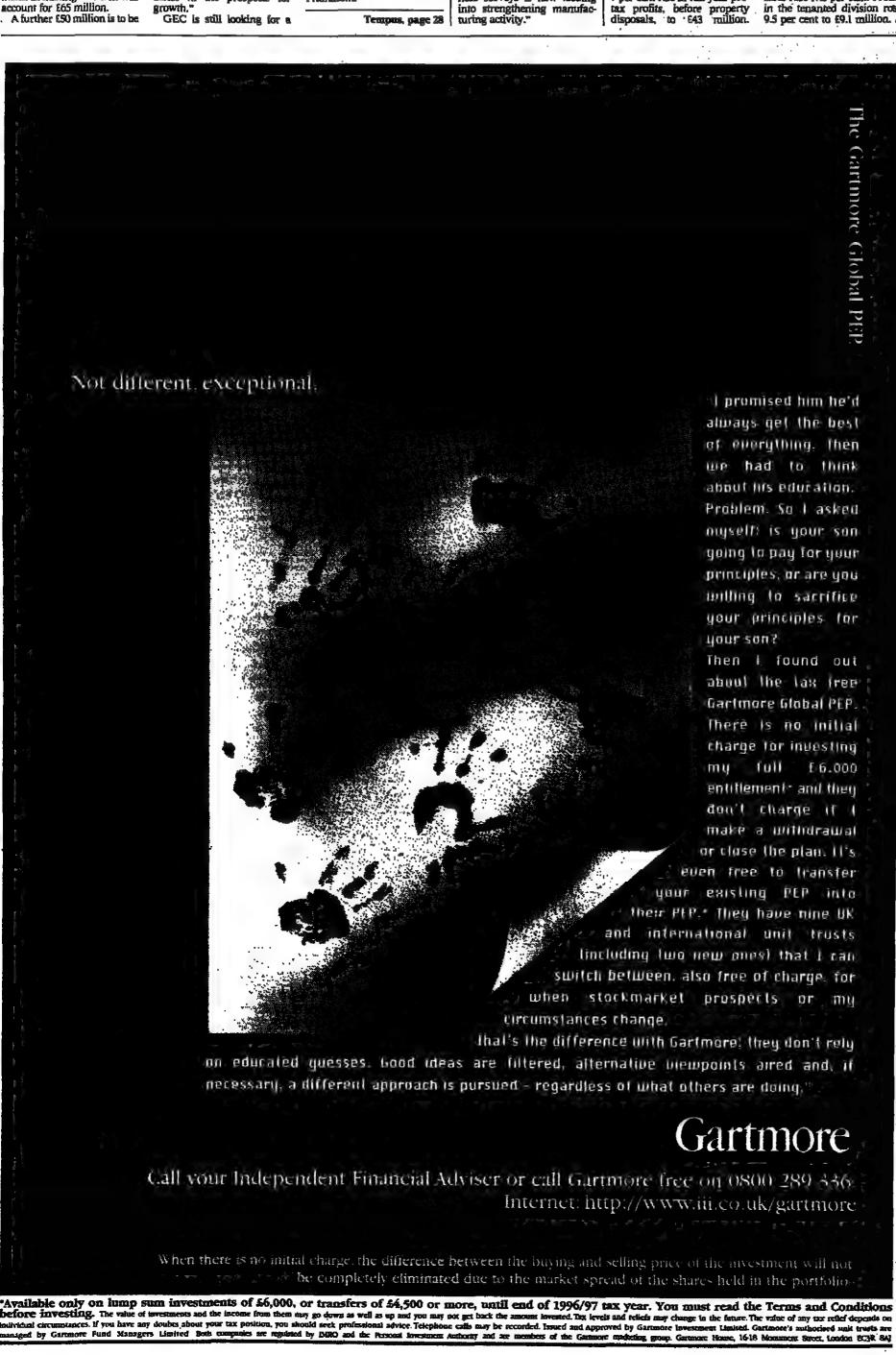
John Bridgeman, Director General of Fair Trading, has given the market up to four months' grace to continue cutting the cost of underwriting share issues and so avoid a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commisson.

The move is a victory is Schroders, the mercha hank, which put out to tende the underwriting of a £22 million rights issue for Stake the hotel group, and saved about £800,000. A handful of other issues, mainly by Schroders and Kleinwort Ben-

son, have followed suit.

Mr Bridgeman said these developments represented the He added: "In the absence of any progress, I would not have hesitated in referring this market to the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission." The OFT believes con panies are being overcharged by more than 50 per cent for underwriting share issues. In the Stakis case and subsequent issues, the cost was reduced by about 11 per cent.



Another two rail franchises awarded

THE latest rail operating franchises were awarded yesterday, with Prism Rail taking West Anglia Great Northern Railway and a new company, GB Railways gaining the Anglia Railways routes. Prism, a consortium of bus company directors, has already been awarded LTS (London, Tilbury and Southend) Rail, Cardiff Railway and South Wales and West.

Prism is to spend £14 million on improving station facilities, information systems and refurbishing rolling stock. The GB Railways franchise will run for just over seven years. The company will receive a £35.9 million subsidy in the first year, declining to £6.3 million in 2003-04. GB Railways plans include £2 million to be spent on stations, improved service frequency and punctuality, and a new rail-sir coach link between Colchester. Essex, and Stansted airport. Priam's 1997-98 grant is £52.9 million. That will drop to £24.8 million by 2003-04.

Anderson sentenced

DONALD ANDERSON, the former finance director of Goldcrest, the Brent Walker film-making subsidiary, was yesterday sentenced to two years in prison. Anderson was convicted at Southwark Crown Court on Thursday of attempting to pervert the course of justice in a £19 million cover-up. Anderson, who surrendered to the Serious Fraud Office in 1995 having fled abroad in 1992, was also banned from being a company director

Whitchurch rights issue

RICHARD THOMPSON, deputy chairman of Caspian Group, owner of Leeds United Football Club, has taken control of Whitchurch, the troubled beefburger maker into which he injected his meat interests last year. Mr Thompson's businesses are backing a £3.25 million fundraising move by the company, whose shares have fallen from 68p when the deal was done to close at 26p yesterday. The two-for-three rights issue, priced at 25p, is being underwritten by Mr Thompson and his associates.

Switch in share deals

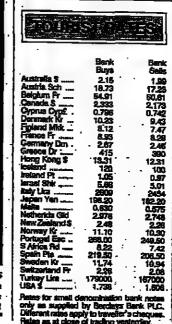
THE London Stock Exchange yesterday announced that the long-awaited move to order-driven electronic trading in FT-SE 100 shares will be completed on October 27 next year. Gavin Casey, chief executive of the exchange, said that an intensive period of testing and full-scale dress rehearsals would precede the launch. He said that a move to extend order-driven trading to other shares will be considered after next October, depending on market demand.

Examiner for Cityjet

CITYJET, the Irish airline that operates between London City Airport and Dublin, was yesterday given protection from its creditors with the court appointment of an interim examiner. The examiner will attempt to arrange a survival plan for the insolvent airline, which has net liabilities of £8 million. The High Court in Dublin was told the three-yearold company has more than a reasonable chance of survival. Cityjet will continue to operate 150 flights a week.

Fuller pulls ahead

FULLER SMITH & TURNER, the brewery company based in London, achieved a 4 per cent increase in first-half profits to £5.2 million, before tax and exceptional items, to £5.2 million, in the six months to September 28. Turnover rose 12 per cent to £49.4 million. The interim dividend, to be paid on January 17, was increased 6 per cent to 3.1p on the A shares and 0.31p for B shares. The A shares yesterday closed 7½ p down at 445p.



THE SUNDAY TIMES Revealed: Britain's best performing

companies

In an exclusive survey The Sunday Times and the American consultancy Stern Stewart expose the winners and losers in the shareholder value creation stakes A

A Business special in The Sunday Times - 10morrow

A WORKING WEEK FOR: LUCIANO BENETTON

Clothing king who courts controversy

The courteous head of Benetton will go to great lengths to promote the business, even posing nude. Sarah Cunningham reports

'He loves

spotting

opportunities

in the

market'



white hair, John Lennon-style wire spectacles and cosy woolly woolly jumper, Luciano Benefton looks more like a ge-nial professor than the showy, maverick busi-

his quiet voice and courteous manner also belie his public image and make it hard to imagine him agreeing to be photographed wearing nothing but his specs and a big smile. But he did pose in the nude for an advertisement three years ago, and he did it for the same reason that he does most things — to promote the Benetton brand and so sell more jumpers. After all, Benetton, 61, has been selling

clothes since he was 14. From working as a teenager behind the counter of someone else's shop, he now heads one of the world's leading clothing groups, and has built up an immense personal fortune along the way.

The Benetton group was born, naturally, with a pullover, made for him in the late Fifties by his sister, Giuliana: "She made me a jumper in an untraditional and rather eccentric colour, a yellow," he recalls. "Friends kept on asking me where I had bought the pullover. After three had

asked, it occurred to me that this was a market." Spotting opportunities in the clothing market is what he loves doing.

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Although he is presi-dent of the whole group, he spends his time looking after the clothing

business and leaves his younger brother, Gilberto, who is vicepresident, to run the finances and the non-clothing businesses such as motorway service stations and ski-equipment manufacturing. Another brother, Carlo, is production director, while Giuliana is design director. A

number of their children also work in the company, based near Treviso, and even his mother, Rosa, still lives near by and cooks dinner for him once a week. In spite of the obvious pitalis for a family working so closely together for so long, he says that it always works well.

"As a family we have always been able to.

work together because we have certain predispositions, we all have different

to unify the family. Their father, who ran a car-hire business, died when Luciano was 10. The Second World War had just ended and italy's economy was shattered. As the eldest child, Luciano had to leave school to help to keep food on the table. He remembers those years as "intense"—

when he was not working he spent his time rowing or playing basketball. That intensity is something that even now, nearly half a century on, he does not want to give up. He says he has no thoughts of retirement because he does not want to stop his constant travelling, which keeps him out of Italy at least half

the year. "I'm not thinking of quitting," he says, adding with typical ambiguity, "but that doesn't mean that there won't be more space for others to work."

A week when he is not travelling overseas will be split between days in the beautiful 17th-century villa where the group has its headquarters, and trips to Rome, Milan and other places in Italy. When overseas he has long days visiting the shops operating under a Benetton licence, talking to potential new partners, and sightseeing. The stress of travelling suffered by the average businessman is eased, he acknowledges, by making use of one of the group's three private jets. His latest trip included Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Burms. The company has shops in the first and the visit to the others was to look for new opportunities.

In spite of the politically correct stance of some of the company's advertisements
— especially the United Colors of
Benetton series showing rows of smiling,
youthful, multiracial faces—he does not let politics influence decisions on where to open stores. Except in the most exceptional circumstances - he cites South Africa - politics are ignored when it comes to making investment decisions.

In the case of Burma, calls by Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy activist, for an economic boycott of the military-run

country do not bother him. He says: "It would be impossible. Our relationship is with a local businessman who wants to do business with us and import our products. It is independent of everything else." In other words, if there is a market for the clothes, Benetton wants to be there. He says it was the

same reasoning that led Benetton to open in Sarajevo at the height of the fighting and he claims he would have been equally happy to open in Belgrade, but a trade embargo made it out of the question. When he visits a new country, his

concerns are purely practical. "I want to see what the social life is, see whether there is a possible clientele. I'm usually very pessimistic. I prefer to wait an extra year rather than believe a very favourable but unrealistic forecast."

. If a new shop does not then work, it is usually because the choice of products has been wrong for the local market; he reckons. He may say he is pessimistic, but the Benetion name. "If the country's economy is going well and there are young people, there is a market for our brand," he says.

"If you are going to a country for the first time, you have to have a well known brand, something that young people, even if they have not travelled, recognise. We have always sought to publicise the brand. The clothes themselves can be promoted through the 7,000-odd shop windows." Because of his efforts - and those of Oliviero Toscani, the Benetton photographer and publicity guru - the Benetton name is recognised around the



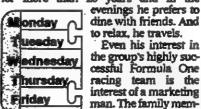
Luciano Benetton says he has no thoughts of quitting because he does not want to stop travelling, which keeps him out of Italy at least half the year

world and, he reckons, is in the same league as Coca-Cola. What is different about Benetton brand building has been the courting of controversy. The protests triggered by the posters of new-born babies, bloodstained army fatigues, Aids victims and the rest created the sort of coverage that advertisements alone could never muster. When asked about the caropaigns, he smiles. He knows the trick has worked once again:

The advertisement in which he ap-peared nude had the slogan "I want my clothes back" and spearheaded a usedclothing drive. But even that was controversial as he was a sensor at the time and was rebuked for bringing Parliament into disrepute. His career in the Senate, from 1992 to 1994, was his only real formy outside the world of clothing and not one he remembers fondly. He went into politics in the wake of the first wave of big corruption cases, known as tangentopoli "I had the idea that it could be better to have people going into politics who did not need to do it for financial gain. It was just an idea and I now think that politicians need to work at it full-time."

He says that he simply did not have the time to undertake politics properly, "It wasn't the business that suffered, suffered," he says. Like many successful businessmen, he is easily bored by

matters outside his own business, which he finds enclessly fascinating. His private life, he says, is quiet. He has been separated from his wife, Maria-Teresa, for more than 20 years and in the



Even his interest in the group's highly successful Formula One racing team is the interest of a marketing man. The family member who loves the sport presumed successor,

who also works with a ment. But for Luciano, "Formula One is a sport which is seen by hundreds of millions of people and so it is very good advertising. To do well in a hightechnology sport is good for a company like ours," he says.

Unlike many of his peers in the Italian business world — including Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon who entered politics with more spectacular results — he has not been touched by tangentopoli. He says the simple reason for this is that the group never tendered for public works contracts, the source of many a tangente [bribe]. He has, however, been called to stand trial in March on charges that he was party to the fraudulent bankruptcy of the Florucci clothing company. He says he is innocent and that Benetton played no part in the business for the year and a

Although he has no intention of becoming a politician again, he remains fascinated and infuriated by Italy's politics. "Here in Italy we have I50,000 laws. In England there are maybe 6,000-7,000. For the past 40 years, whenever a group of people have wanted something from the politician they have been satisfied with a law in return for their votes. It has blocked everything up. I want a well-organised State with about 5,000 laws. Otherwise it is like having indigestion; eventually you have to stop eating.

There may be high taxes, scandals and tens of thousands too many laws in Italy, but Luciano Benetton appears otherwise to have a rather charmed existence. As the interview wound up, he said he was about to set off for dinner with friends in Piedmont. "It's the truffle season," he dinner were normal. Perhaps for a man with three jets and a taste for the finer

Nature springs a surprise on industrial Teesside

chimneys, slag heaps, lime slurry and miles of unre-lieved industrial monstrosities belching waste.

In the past ten to 15 years, however, plants, birds and animals have been lured into this corner of North East England and have thrived, thanks to initiatives by industry to improve wildlife conservation in the area. Of all the industrial giants,

ICI has perhaps best demonstrated the ability to create new environmental assets on its land, much of which had been badly scarred by 150 years of industrialisation. ICI is one of Cleveland's

biggest landowners and the work it has done in the Teesside area over the past 15 years has created orchid colonies, reed beds, wetlands populated by dragonflies, tern breeding grounds,

ICI is a leading exponent of wildlife

conservation, Joanna Pitman finds

woodlands, a seal programme in the Tees estuary and a badger rehabilitation programme. The Teesside projects have led ICI to set up Nature Link, an international wildlife conservation project that covers environmental work on land it owns in a dozen countries.

ICI began its involvement with nature conservation in the late 1970s when it leased Cowpen Marsh, on the banks of the Tees to the Royal Society for the Protec-tion of Birds. Cowpen Marsh is still a nature reserve, although its management has been transferred to a committee comprising ICI, the Industry and Nature Conservation Association (Inca), and English Nature. Much of the ICI land has

been designated as a site of special scientific importance and when ICI sets up new made to ensure minimal

disruption to wildlife.

Take the proposed brine extraction wells on Cowpen Marsh. ICI relies on the salt deposits to produce the canstic soda and chlorine that go into disinfectants, solvents, detergents and plastics. The metres below the surface and ICI will pump water into the underlying salt layer. This is then pumped under the River Tees to the company's manufacturing plants.

On the surface, meanwhile, wildlife should continne as normal with large numbers of wildfowl and

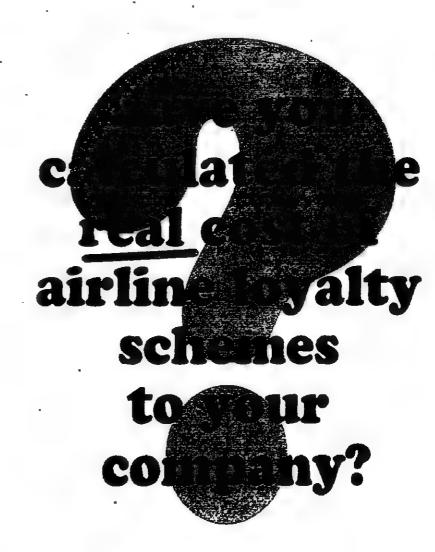
the saltmarsh and grazing marsh of Cowpen. ICI will attempt to enhance the conservation area by recreating pools and lagoons and con-serving reedbeds. Floating islands have been built to

encourage terms to nest.

It will minimise groun disturbance by laying pipes on gravel making even safer nesting sites for ringed plovers than the traditional beach also timed to prevent distur-

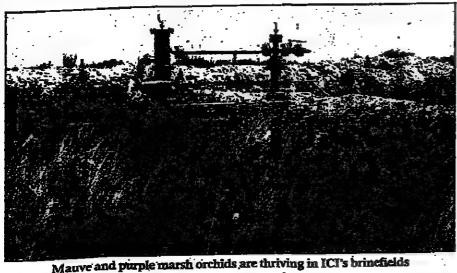
Ken Smith is a former ICI senior ecology adviser who consultant for both ICI and Inca, the body that is coof the Tees. "We are expecting to end up with a site that will be better for wildlife when the drilling is finished than it is now. We have used all the knowledge accrued over years to make sure we do not detract from the area's conservation value and that we add to it where possible." British Steel, Phillips Pe-

oleum, BASF (all Inca members) and other firms preservation of wildlife asets so that it will not be long before Teesside will be more naturally associated with abundant wildlife, such as the carpet of more than 60,000 mauve and purple marsh orchids that bloom every summer on ICI's North Tees brinefields.



travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flight

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)





BTR bucks the trend as shares plummet

crowd last night. It was the only constituent of the top 100 companies that make up the FT-SE 100 index to close up on

the day.
It followed an upbeat trading statement that any other day would have had traders reaching for the phone to buy industrial conglomerate's timing could not have been worse, coming out with its most positive trading news in many a month on a day when the rest of the London stock market was being hit for six.

BTR expects the second half to show an improvement over the first six months, but said that a strong pound could hold back profits. It finished 7p dearer at 237 ap, not a bad performance when taking into account the double-digit falls being registered by the rest of the FT-SE 100 constituents.

The dramatic losses seen elsewhere in the market stemmed from overnight comments by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, about Wall Street's "irrational exuberance". In other words, the Dow Jones was too high and a correction was overdue.

His words sent a chill down the spines of investors overnight in the Far East where the Nikkei and the Hang Seng both fell sharply. It also set the scene for a sharp markdown in London as investors woke up to the fact that the US economy had problems of its own that might require a rise In interest rates

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index plunged almost 170 points anxiously awaiting Wall Street's reaction to US employment figures. After initial nervousness that saw the Dow Jones industrial average tumble 144 points, share price on both sides of the Atlantic rallied as it transpired those employment numbers were not as bad as had been feared. The index closed 88.2p down at 3,963.0, a fall on the week of 95 points. The relatively low level of turnover that saw 724 indicated that yesterday's volatility was more of a damagelimitation exercise than a

Blue chips were the hardest Barclays Bank, 32p to £10.02, Burmah, 28 p to £10.20, Cadbury Schweppes, 21 2p to 486 2p, EMI, 47 2p to £13.31,



BA hit turbulence over its link-up plans with American

General Accident, 282p to 7062p, GKN, 44p to £10.38, Schroders, 40p to £15.05, Unilever, 37'2p to £13.72'2, and Zeneca, 49'2p to £15.81'2. It was not the best day for lan Lang. President of the Board of Trade, to threaten to refer the link-up of British

Airways with American Air-

lines to the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission unless

company. He has set aside E160 million for restructuring, which left pre-tax profits down with £402 million last time.

The sharp overnight falls in Far Eastern markets left Standard Chartered nursing a loss of 28p at 663p, while setbacks were also recorded in HSBC. down 442p at £12.79, and Cable and Wireless, 16p off at

Keep an eye on Berisford, the Magnet joinery group, where bid talks with a mystery suitor have broken down. The shares finished lp lower at 138 p in a battered market, with speculators looking for another bidder to emerge. Premark, the US group floated off from Tupperware last year, is tipped.

suitable undertaking were given. As part of the deal BA and AA had to give up 168 take-off slots at Heathrow Airport. This caused BA to run into turbulence, losing 124p at

GEC fell 2p to 363½p as George Simpson, the new chief executive, began to make his presence felt and the group also chose to underline the problems posed by a strong pound. Mr Simpson is undertaking a big review of the sizeable exposure to the Pacific

Northern Electric, a takeover target, clawed back an early 16p deficit to end the session I p firmer at 602 p after rejecting increased terms from CE Electric, the US power generator. The US power group has raised its offer to 650p a share, valuing Northem at £658 million.

The rest of the electric sector lost ground with the rest of the

MOVERS	FOR THE WEEK
Carrell price Racal Electronics	West's dates -86%p

market. There were falls for
London, 12p to 6462p, Nat-
ional Power, 5p to 453p,
Northern Ireland Electricity,
1012 p to 356p. Scottish Power.
7p to 338½ p,and Yorkshire
Electricity, 6p to 75712 p.
Great Universal Stores con-
tinued to lose ground, falling
26p to 6252p on the back of

some disappointing figures earlier in the week. In spite of tion of Experian, the US credit-rating agency. It stretches the fall on the week to 58p.

Reed International also

continued to beat a hasty retreat, falling 11p to £10.765 in the wake of the gloomy trading statement from Reed Elsevier, the trading company it owns jointly with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group. Jarvis lost an early lead to

end 2p easier at 138p before the announcement of interim figures on Monday. Ten fund managers made a visit to the group's operations yesterday.

Hay & Robertson, the sports and leisurewear group, marked time at 113p in a falling market after signing up Ruud Gullit, player-manager of Chelsea Football Club. He has signed a five-year contract to endorse a new range of branded leisurewear and accessories to be called Ruud.

GILT-EDGED: The comments from Mr Greenspan rocked the market, with losses among longer dated coupons stretching to almost £1½ in places. It refocused attention on the possibility of another rise in domestic interest rates.

The position was made worse by the news that Sir John Gorst, a Tory back-bencher, had resigned the whip, wiping out the Government's overall majority. But the market took heart from flat industrial production in October to close above the worst levels of the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended down E²⁷32 at El08²⁹32 as the number of contracts completed grew to 124,000. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent

£102116, while in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks off at E1022132.

NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks cut about half of their steep losses after a wild morning of trading that saw the Dow Jones industrial average plunge more than 140 points. At midday, the index was

New York (midday): Dow Jones 6380.08 (-57.02) S&P Composite 737.80 (-6.58)
Tokyo: Nikks Average 20276,70 (-667.20)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Amsterdanc FOE Index616.26 (-12.18)
Sydney: 2313.9 (-69.4)
Frankfurt: DAX 2791.96 (-117.95)
Singapore: 2190.39 (-23.78)
Brussels: General
Paris: CAC-40 2240.72 (-51.78)
Zurich: 81240 (-1640)
London: 1740.1 (-564)
FT 107 3963.0 (-88.2) FTSE MId 2SD 4348.1 (-67.7) FTSE 350 1969.3 (-42.9) FTSE 2motiment 100 1847.18 (-46.59)
PT All-Share 1942-22 (-41.51) PT Wen Financials 2020.14 (-38.99)
FT Fixed Interest 117:01 (-0.60) FT Govt Sees 93.50 (-1.21) Bargains 43403
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1.6418 (+0.0148) 2.5292 (+0.0003) Bank of England official close (40m) Access Plus (90) Britt Affcroft Charterhouse (5) Dawn Til Dusk Druid Grp Execer inv Pinsbury Intl Hedge 623% First Russian Pres C 580 Future Int Tele (115) 1265 Goshawk Insce 1221 Grantchester Hidgs 130 Kern River Oliver Ashworth Recycling Servs 98' Scot Highland Htls 138 Second St David Inc 1105 Second St David Z Pf 184

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	-	
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Regalian Ps n/p (30)	14	
Stakis n/p (82)	54	- 24
Vision n/p (235)	55	- 34
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Fine Art Dev House of Fraser	230p	(-15p) (-10 sp)
Holders Tech Waste Rec Low & Boner	197¢ , 396p ((-12p) (-221:p)
Regent Inns Berbour Index		

Closing Prices Page 27

LONDON ENANCIAL FUTURES

Greenspan blues

Reserve Board, is worried that rising asset prices could be inflationary and his musings late on Thursday ("Where do we draw the line on what prices matter?") sent the Nikkei index into a nosedive, followed by European markets on Friday morning. His concern is understandable. Wall Streets bull market looks unstoppable and we in Britain ought to understand how inflation in capital assets can feed through to consumer prices - remortgaging of houses is a good example.

However, the concern is not bricks and mortar but financial assets. US house prices are rising, but only by 4-5 per cent. In the UK, they are enjoying a surge but after years of stagnation, it hardly represents grounds for a

GONE are the days when a bullish stock market was deemed to be good news. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal growth is solid, enough to justify an average price earnings multiple of 18 times for 1996 compared to 15 times in London where a spate PARTY THE SE

of profit warnings is holding back prices.

Will the cash stoked up in stocks and shares feed an inflationary spiral? In the US, personal pensions, the new 401K plans, are keeping the pot bubbling but such long-term money should not be a lever for consumer price inflation. And in the UK, the institutions have been keeping cash on deposit, rather than chasing shares.

Greenspan fears a 1980s Japanese-style market bubble but we are a long way from that Ironically the weak Tokyo market suffered worst from his musings — but excess was always a Japanese phenomenon.

GEC

... 188,99 (-5,)7

THE PROSPECT of George Simpson at the helm of GEC built up heady expectations in the City, but since his arrival in September, the in the other direction.

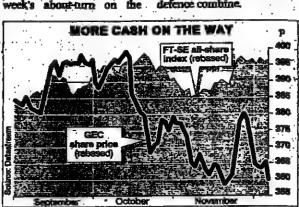
This disappointment cannot entirely be laid at his door - the man is reported to have been on a grand tour of Lord Weinstock's demesne. Nevertheless hopes are high that the current "strategic review of all aspects of the group" will generate more value for shareholders who tire of seeing their funds held on deposit in GEC bank accounts. Yet confidence is not improved by suggestions that the new strategy will not be unveiled until June.

Still, positive news could well emerge before then. The recent share price fall had ment over the French Government's decision to turn down Alcatel's offer for

much to do with disappoint-

Alcatel is GEC's partner in GEC-Alsthorn and the British company would like to merge Marconi with Thomson-CSF, the defence eleccompany. This rival bidder, Lagardère could leave the door slightly ajar for GEC.

More certain is the prospect of disposals. Some £1.7 billion of non-core businesses could be on the block. More liquidity increases the pressure to invest but with ample funds GEC is in pole position to lead a European defence combine.



NTT

JAPAN is the Holy Grail of the telecommunications inmarket ought to be a magnet to the world's big phone companies. Even the likes of AT&T, BT-MCI and Deutsche Telekom cannot make a claim to global status without a shopfront in Japan.

Easier said than done.The key to unlocking Japan has always been Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, the world's largest phone company by turnover. But the monolith is controlled by the Government and therefore. lacks independence and has little flexibility. Dragging the into the modern world by dismantling NTT has been under discussion since AT&T did the splits in the early 1980s. But nothing has happened and the latest developments are more cosmetic than structural. NTT is to be broken into three bits - two regional companies covering

eastern and western Japan and a long-distance business that will also offer international services. But the restructuring will not happen until 1999 at the earliest and the trio will still be controlled by the Government. The status quo has therefore been

This is a huge disappointment to large American and European carriers, They wanted NTT broken into competing units that might exchange a stake in the Japanese market for a link with an overseas partner. But the industry remains a closed shop. AT&T, BT-MCI will have to find open doors elsewhere in Asia.

Northern Elec

ONE of the few shares to rise on the London market yesterday was Northern Electric, if only because CE Electric, the US bidder, chose to increase its offer and to set a closing deadline of December 20.

At least by then the Ameri-

cans should have heard ferred to the Monopolies Commission. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, has until December 16 to decide whether to wave through the financially challenged

The Americans might yes find a falling market serves Northern up to them on a silplatter. They might also find exchange rates working against them. Recent sterling strength is reckaned to have reduced their room for manocuvre by 10p a share. against the 650p put on the table vesterday and the 700p offered in pre-bid talks.

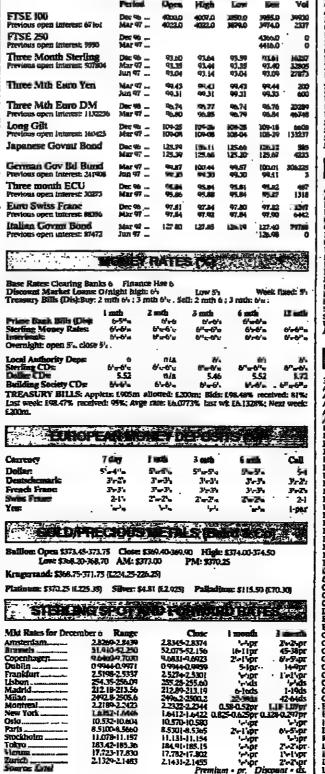
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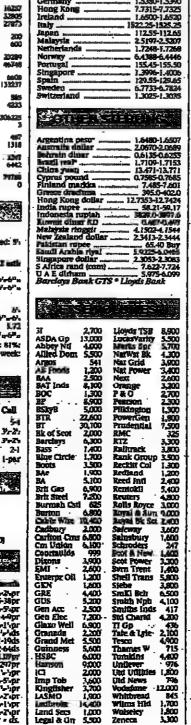
The big issue in this bid is earling. Northern was already in hock because of the shareholder package parcelled up to see off Trafalgar: almost two years ago. If the bid goes ahead CE will be geared up 186 per cent. A thought for Mr Lang to muli

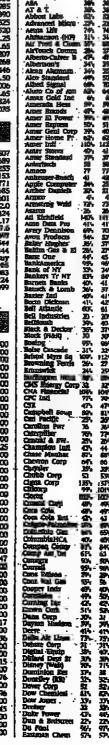
EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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was sufficient to understand that Edinburgh.

an blues



PARTY TIME 30

Those share giveaways are set to continue

WEEKEND MONEY

EARLY TO BED 31

A timely warning on capital gains



ILL SOME TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Are house prices set to blow a tuse in 1997?

xperts now believe that house prices will rise by 7 per cent next year. The statistics are becoming reminiscent of the Eighties property boom, with some predicting that the market will follow the same boom and bust" pattern.

Steve Bell, chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, is one of the pessimists. Mr Bell's past record of property market predictions is good. He can claim to have been the first to forecast the effect of the ending of double mortgage tax relief in August 1988 which fuelled the scramble for homes that year. Soon afterwards, prices climbed by around 34 per cent a year, with one-year rises of 70 per cent in some areas.

Mr Bell believes that the house prices could begin to get out of control next year. It is expected that the current reional variations will continue in the new year, with the South and especially London experiencing the biggest rises and Yorkshire and East Anglia showing virtually no price increases at all.

David Gilchrist, Halifax general manager, said: "House prices in Greater London are suffering from double-digit inflation." House prices rose by 10.1 per cent on average with some parts of the capital showing even larger increases, according to the Land Registry. Prices in Hampstead have risen by 13 per cent this year, in Kingston by 10 per cent, while prices in Pimlico and Blackheath have

risen by 2 per cent.
In the South East as a whole, house price inflation reached about 8 per cent in the third quarter. However, in East Anglia house price infla-tion reached only 2 per cent. Mr Gilchrist said: "East Anglia is a bit of a puzzle, but it

rose very sharply during the previous house-price boom." Mr Bell believes that these differences arise from economic factors. Prices in southern England are being buoyed by wage increases and rising employment. These improvements have yet to spread to some areas of the North. He said: "The South is further down the economic cycle than the North, unemployment is Caroline Merrell

asks the

experts if we

really

are seeing

a return

to the 1980s

boom

lower and wage rises have been higher. House prices rises are linked to wage rises." London prices are, in particular, being supported by large City bonuses. Late last month one prospective purchaser found himself gazumped by another buyer willing to pay £90,000 more for a large Chiswick family house. Nationally, certain other types of property are not so sought after and little improvement is

expected next year.

or example, many for-mer council tenants who bought their flats under the right-to-buy legislation have found their homes are virtually unsaleable because societies refuse to lend against certain types of property. Another hindrance to a return to the booming house prices of the late Eighties is the fact that about 800,000 homeowners still have loans that are bigger

than their property's value. Each I per cent rise in house prices lifts 100,000 people out of the negative equity trap. It would take an 8 per cent rise to clear everyone out entirely, in spite of the Chancellor's confidence at the time of last month's Budget. He said: "I hope that negative equity can soon be consigned to the economic history books. The housing recovery is firmly

This year, prices will have risen by an average 7 per cent, according to the Halifax Building Society, the largest rise for four years, but well

the fifth month in succession in November. This one-month rise of 0.5 per cent is less than a third of October's unprecedented rise of 1.7 per cent.

At the beginning of this year, both the Nationwide and

Abbey and Coventry increased their variable rate by 0.25 per cent, while Northern Rock went up 0.5 per cent. The latter increased its rates by double the base-rate rise because it felt that the Government was sure to raise rates after next week's meeting between the Chancellor and Bank of England. Abbey's rate now stands at 7.29 per cent for those with loans of under £60,000, and 7.24 per cent for those with loans of over £60,000. Northern Rock's rate is 7.49 per cent while Coven-

try's rate is 7.25 per cent.

Mortgage brokers believe that those considering taking out a mortgage should look at

reached in 1989. Prices rose for

the Halifax were predicting that prices would rise by 5 per cerit. Both have now uprated their forecasts to 7 per cent, maintaining their record of failibility on this issue. Mr Gilchrist believes that

the small increase in interest rates instigated by some lenders after the base-rate change six weeks ago will not have a strong effect. This is a real recovery." Northern Rock, Coventry and Abbey National all raised their rates last week.

a five-year capped or fixed-rate loan. They think that while these loans have interest rates above the current rate, they

amount. John Charcol recommends a five-year capped rate of 7.9 per cent from Coventry and a four-year 7.95 per cent capped rate from the Skipton. However, the prospect of a general election means demand for houses could start to flatten next spring, according to Kevin Cammack, an analysi with Merrill Lynch. There are still fears that a socialist government will tax the rich and put up interest rates, both of which will affect the

affordability of homes. Rob Thomas, analyst with UBS, says Labour has re-versed its plans to abolish mortgage interest tax relief which, although now worth little in cash terms, is still psychologically important to

represent a good deal because

rates are almost certain to rise

they are already doing so.

Capped rates are where the

Halifax soothes anxious members

The Halifax Building Society, which is planning to become a bank, acted to reassure savers and borrowers yesterday after some qualifying members received letters telling them their balances were too low to merit a payout of free shares (Marianne Curphey writes).

The society, which intends to float on the stock market next June, said members with several accounts might receive more than one letter, despite efforts to "deduplicate" customers' records.

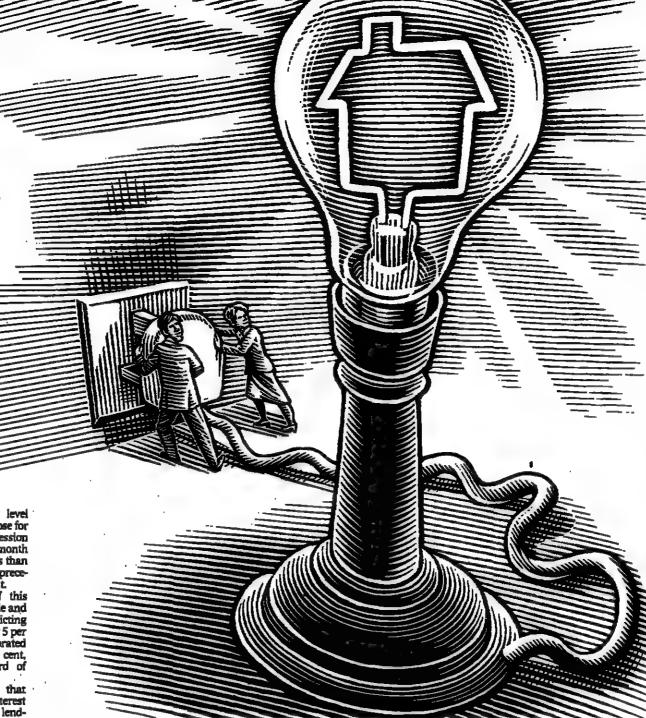
A Halifax Building Society spokesman said: "Some members have a number of accounts in slightly different names and we want to make sure that we contact everybody. We are sending out 13 million letters and some of them will go to the same house. If people who know they qualify have not received a letter by Wednesday, they should contact their local branch or the general freephone

The society is sending out letters to clarify individuals' eligibility for the free shares in the £10 billion conversion. The spokesman said: "We want people to check their details now, while there is time to sort things out. We need to ensure that the information is correct before we start sending out transfer documents and voting papers for

Details of the conversion will arrive at qualifying members' homes next month.

The Halifax Building Society freephone number is 0800 888344.

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth





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*Estimated annual grow income calculated on 5.12.96 Redemption yield is 7.0%. All yields we estimated and not guaranteed. The value of units and morne from them may go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend on individual circumstances. Fidelity unit trusts are managed by Fidelity Investment Services Lunited, Fidelity PEFs are offered by Fidelity Investments Lumited Issued by Fidelity Investments Lumited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Other than the effect of the hal offer spread, **Resources and assets include those of FMS Corp., a US company and utilitate (as at 30 9.90). Fadelay only provides information about its products and will not give investment advice beset on individual circumstances.

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No exuberance over Gas

rrational exuberance is in the eye of. the beholder. If the average grey-beard says young folks are overdoing it, that is sour grapes. A week ago, Robin Griffiths, chartist at HSBC James Capel compared Wall Street to Old Man River. "Against all effort, reason and logic, the flow just goes on." It is different when the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, chief lock-keeper on Old Man River, raps market traders over the knuckles.

Alan Greenspan is famously inscrutable, well aware that screenwatchers blink at his every nuance. When he mused publicly late on Thursday that 1987-style crashes need not be such a bad thing, he would not be shocked and hor-rified when markets reacted. Greenspanologists deduced that he wanted to avoid putting interest rates up but was embarrassed by inflation in financial markets and wanted to talk prices down.

In an accident of global markets, foreigners got the message first. They were not inclined to call the great man's bluff. Orders went out for Tippex for heavy corrections. Far East shares fell 3. per cent. The FT-SE 100 index fell 414 per cent before lunch. Tokyo, Hong Kong and London had caught a cold before Wall Street sneezed. As argued here a month ago, speculators have managed to inject instability back into financial markets. Tanned traders will want to play it for all it is worth.

Contagion aside, however, you could hardly accuse London of irrational exuberance. At Thursday's close, the FT-SE index was up 10 per cent in 1996. compared with a 25 per cent rise in New York's Dow Jones average. One crucial



reason is that the index of top British companies contains a large pack of dogs. Two of the mangiest barked this week. Hanson is halfway through a metamorphosis to which it is committed. British Gas will ask 1.7 million investors to sanction one in February.

Recent history should not give shareholders, big or small, any cause to have blind faith in their board. They should tell the directors to rethink when they have a clearer idea of what is going on. On known facts, the metamorphosis would turn British Gas into a slightly smaller, mangier, dog plus a puppy. Behind costly new corporate branding. the main point of the proposed demerger is to slash dividends. This might be in managers' interest, but not investors'.

Centrica, the much-depleted gas supply business buttressed by the Morecambe Bay gas field, does not initially expect to pay dividends. No wonder. Computer chaos will make it hard to know its income even before competition supplying households bites,

remaining 90 per cent of surplus fixedprice gas contracts the company was left with by its regulator's whims. That may mean handing over Morecambe. If this can be tidied up, Centrica would become a national distribution arm for a multiutility, to be fought over by National Power and PowerGen. Until then, the shares are option money.

BG plc, the bigger dog, would combine the TransCo pipeline system, North Sea and foreign assets. When the plan was devised, TransCo looked safe. Ofgas thought otherwise. Unless the Monopolies Commission takes account of the 8 per cent yield on Gas shares and restores most Ofgas cuts. TransCo will become a semi-socialised utility. Shareholders would want to withdraw their equity as fast as possible. Yet the plan for BG plc would dedicate only TransCo's current cost profits to dividends, implying a cut from 14.5p to 6p and falling.

n market terms, it would make no sense to saddle a cash-hungry oil and gas business with a high-risk, highyield utility. Investors would understandably value it on its worst aspects, demanding a high yield on a low dividend. If the utility were quoted separately, the high cost of capital forced on it by bad regulation would be clear. Investors could also insist on withdrawing cash. Dividends should at least be maintained in real terms, replacing equity with debt as required. This could not be done if TransCo were combined

with the low-yield exploration business. City institutions and private investors alike should prepare to block this plan.



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Party well worth £100 ticket

Anne Ashworth and Nathan Yates say the share giveaways are expected to continue for some time

The Christmas spending spree can put a strain on any wallet. But, like the good fairy in the pantomine, those building societies planning to become banks next year will restore the tattered finances of millions of households. The flotation of the Norwich Union will also work a transformation on millions of bank balances. Furthermore, although many of the remaining societies make much of allegiance to mutual status, the possibility remains that many may yet merge or convert, enriching members in

the process.

The only spectre threatening this £16 billion party is the dispute over the new Building Societies Bill. The Alliance & Leicester, in particular, has objected to the proposal in the Bill to remove the five-year period of protection now covering any building society, shedding its mutual status.

After discussions with Treasury ministers, the A&L said that it was reviewing its flotation plans. But it now seems that either a compromise will be reached, or, according to a Whitehall source, that no parliamentary time will be found for the Bill before the general election, allowing its controversial measures to be quietly

Qualifying members (savers and borrowers) with the Hali-

larger savers getting as much as £8,000. The society is curasking them to confirm their account details to ensure that they receive their full share

Those tempted to deplete their accounts to finance Christmas spending should remember that the months of waiting will be wasted if they allow their balances to fall below the crucial £100 on December 31.

Members of the Alliance &

Leicester gather next Tuesday at the London Arena in Docklands to vote on the society's conversion. Sufficient postal votes have already been received to ensure a "yes" vote.

But protests are still likely from the vociferous action group of larger savers who argue that the society should not be giving the same number of shares (250) to each member, but making a variable distribution based on the amount invested, such as the Halifax and Woolwich. Priced at between 38Sp and 435p, these shares should be worth about £1,000. Like the Halifax, the Woolwich has reminded its members that they must have £100 in their accounts at December 31, 1996,

or forfeit their average £1,000 The Northern Rock will

Halifax shares, with some basic or a variable distribution early next year. But a basic distribution is considered to be average payout will be £900. Yet again, members must not let their balances fall below £100 on December 31.

> also applies to members of the Bristol & West, which is being taken over by the Bank of Ireland. Two-year savers those who have had share accounts since December 31 1994 — will get a fixed payout of at least £500 in cash, plus a percentage of their balance upto £10,000, with an average payout of £1,000 per member. Those who have been with the society for two years but did not have £100 in their accounts on April 15 can top up their accounts to get a fixed cash distribution of at least E250. Qualifying savers who do not. have two years' standing with the society plus ail borrowers will get £250 worth of Bristol &

West preference shares.
The Norwich Union, at present a mutual company, will also join the stock market next year. Life, pension and annuity customers will benefit, picking up £800 worth of free shares. But health, house and contents and motor policyholders and unit trust investors do not qualify.

Those who have lost out on-

you could pay substantially less than if you had had a

standard variable-rate loan.

It also makes budgeting

easier because you know ex-

The £100 at December 31 2:00 or more in an account on December 31-1996, open at December 31-1995. Special general meeting February 1997 (0345 022039) \$100 or more in an account at April 15 1996, open at December 31 1994; No date bled for special general meeting (0800 899535). Northern Rock 21,000 Chaber 1997. 250 in an account on April 2:1996 and 2100 in

remaining top 20 societies. "Birmingham Midshires is probably the best candidate for flotation right now. Na-tionwide is the largest remaining mutual, and although the management says it will stay

them for full membership, gives them the right to vote and makes them eligible for a payment. The legal qualification requirement is a balance of £100 or more, though some ulations regarding the type of it has been held.

One expert put the following

Birmingham Midshires (EI,000); Portman (E750); Cov-entry (£800); Skipton (£800); Leeds & Holbeck (£750); Chel-sea (£1.300); Derbyshire (£800); West Bromwich (£700),

Helen Pridham looks at the redemption penalties in some fixed-rate mortgages

Home loans that come with a sting in the tail

lears of more rate rises tages. If general mortgage and a change of governates rise during the period, to opt for fixed-rate mortgages. But there is growing concern

Fixed-interest mortgages much as 60 to 70 per cent of their new lending is now on a fixed-rate basis. Fixed-rate periods range from two years to ten years or more. Phillip Cartwright of London & Country Mortgages said: "Until recently, fixed-rate loans of two to three years have been popular, but the emphasis has now switched more to fiveyear fixes to take people

through the term of the next

government." A fixed-rate deal

can have significant advan-

for 2150 several years after. The ed to general interest rates at the time or tothe size of your loan; some are tiered according to how long

years after the fixed-rate had lapsed. Halifax justified these "lock-in" clauses on the basis you have had the loan. They of cost. "The generous deals not only affect people who we were offering were priced want to arrange, say, a new over the extended period. If fixed-rate mortgage at the end of the original term but also borrowers do not remain with us for a reasonable period apply to those who merely after the fixed rate ends, we

ment of their loan.

Until its recent announcement, the Halifax imposed extended redemption penalties offering, for example, two-year fixed-rate loans with redemp-

through the redemption penal-However, at least one lender

has questioned the legality of such extended penalties. At David Mass

> only do I believe extended redemption penalties are immoral our ers have expthese lock-in clauses could fall foul of the unfair contracts diryear. It has not been test-

ed in court

yet but, in a

couple: of some aggrieved borrowers realise what they have been sold. - a court case could well result which would be very bad publicity." The Halifax says the change of heart on extended redemption penalties is because it no longer offers such cut-price rates. "We

market is picking up in order to avoid the overheating which occurred in the late 1980s." The society admits that the new policy will not help existsays that if such borrowers want to switch to other Halifax loans after the end of the fixedrate period then their case would be considered and a "halfway house solution" found regarding payment of the penalty.

A ithough lenders say they will not normally waive redemption penalties, many agree they might be prepared to consider cases on their merits and as a gesture of goodwill" if a borrower took out another loan-There are a small number of lenders without any redemption penalties on fixed-rate loans at any time. The Portman and NatWest both offer loans with rates fixed until

1998 with no penalties, though NatWest said it is a one-off. The C&G has fixed-rate deals without penalties, and lower-rate deals with extended penalties, while the Woolwich has loans available with limited and extended penalty clauses. At London & Country Mortgages, Phillip Cartwright said: "Generally, the lower the

actly what your outgoings will be over the period. In the past attractive offers. Although some lenders have recently modified their policies, many still tie in borrowitive rates ers not only during the fixedrate period but for some years available. after. The Halifax, for exam-But many ple, last month launched a borrowers new range of fixed-rate mort-For many more good reasons, and your free mortgage quotation without obligation. gages with redemption fees that apply only during the many fixedfixed-rate period and discountages include stiff penalty ed variable-rate loans with no redemption fees at all. However, these changes do not clauses not benefit existing borrowers with extended redemption want to repenalty clauses. deem your have become increasingly popular in recent years. Some fixed-rate large lenders report that as period but trust us to deliver

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Blowing whistle on loan penalties

Nor mortgage lenders, the impending general election is proving the perfect fixed-rate loan selling opportunity, allowing them to play on fears of rising interest rates and uncertainty. As we report on page 30, two thirds of borrowers at some banks and building societies are now opting for the reassurance of a set monthly payment. However, as with politicians, the promises of lenders

may not stand the closest scrutiny. Some are still charging onerous redemption penalties on their fixed-rate offers (see page 30) for those with the temerity to transfer to a competitor, or repay a chunk of the debt. In some cases, the penalties do not apply only during the fixed-rate period but for some years therefter. This enforced loyalty ensures that the customer pays the full price for his discount. How-ever, the end may be near for such



ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

extended penalties, as they could well be illegal under the new unfair contracts directive. Something good from Europe, perhaps?

Numbers lesson

AS the debate continued over whether school examinations are getting easier, a campaign began this week for a new GCSE in a subject that few have found a pushover. The Person-

al Finance Education Group (PFEG) wants to see money matters added to the curriculum. The organisation's backers argue that pupils may know lots about history, biology and trigonometry but have no idea whether a Pep is an obscure salad vegetable or a bad-

die in a computer game.

The result of this ignorance is. they say, a huge burden on the State, almost equivalent to the £38 billion cost of the whole education

hudget. Since people do not know how to manage their finances, they get into debt, go bankrupt, get repossessed, or fail to provide for old age. The result is that they become dependent on welfare, or a shrinking state pension.

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The PFEG's aims are certainly laudable. But if they are put into practice, no special reverence should attach to its backers, the great and good of the financial services industry, including NatWest, the Association of British Insurers and the Association of Investment Trust Companies.

Those who manage their money well are sceptical, questioning whether a well-known name guarantees superior quality and dubious about any claim to better than average performance until it is proven. As in other disciplines, personal finance teachers should encourage pupils' critical faculties.

Gavin Lumsden with a timely tax warning for investors

Early to bed next year

nvestors planning to "bed and breakfast" their shares in order to get the most out of their capital gains tax allowance should do so early next year, leading stockbrokers say. They blame the introduction of Crest, the City's new computerised share trading system, which they say creates more paperwork in processing bed and breakfasting deals than the certificatebased Talisman system it is supposed to replace by April.

investors can accrue up to £6,300 a year tax-free by selfing shares before they are hit by the 40 per cent tax on capital gains (last week's Budget increased this to £6,500 for 1997-98 tax year). In bed and breakfasting investors sell some shares one day and buy them back again the next, to ensure the threshold is not breached. In spite of its name, no travelling is involved — the furthest from home you have to go is your broker's office. The shares take a holiday not

the investor.
The bulk of bed and break-. fasting is done at the end of the tax year in March when investors can calculate how much capital gains they have accrued. For example, investors with £9,000 of gain, will sell stocks in which they show a threshold. However, if investors have gained only £1,000 over the year they may consid-



Shared responsibility: Ronald Reagan and Diana Lynn had no deadlines in Bedtime for Bonzo

er crystallising gains in profitable shares to take them up to the £6.300 limit.

However, you might consider bed and breakfasting earlier if one of your shares does badly, like Racal, the electronics and communications firm which fell 18 per cent last Monday. Buying back a stock when it has dropped like a stone can be a useful way of establishing a loss that can be offset against future gains

Regardless of when bed and breakfasting is done, it involves linking two different the facility later, it will not be days of March, but they may

Growth of £1,000 over 20 years

THEFT

transactions: the sale and the repurchase. Brokers have found that this linkage is easier on Talisman, enabling them to close off the deals from the system, allowing them to avoid exchanging share certificates. Crest, on which 40 per cent of the business on the Stock Exchange is currently

technology, cannot do this. As a result, bed and breakfasting deals involving shares on more expensive. Although Crest may develop

done, for all its 21st century

ready by April, the deadline for any bed and breakfasting

Bob Howe, administration pariner at Redmayne & Bentley, a Leeds broker, says although brokers can manually manipulate Crest to close off transactions, many have chosen not to. Those that have not will require clients with shares on Crest to hand over their certificates, sign transfer forms and wait for new certifiwill this add time, which can be in short supply in the last

charge investors two sets of fees for doing so. Mr Howe advises: "Find out

what system your shares will be settled in and ask the broker what his charges are before you commit yourself. If it is a Crest deal you could find

a better bargain elsewhere.
Although Brewin Dolphin,
the big independent broker, is unable to close off bed and breakfasting deals, it waives its fee on the repurchase and deliberately takes a day longer to settle the sale than the repurchase. By settling both deals on the same day the company avoids any money

changing hands.

According to the Association of Private Client Investment Managers and Stockbrokers, charges on the first £5,000-£7.000 of business range are about 1.6 per cent.

Iain Saville, chairman of CrestCo, the company which runs Crest, said the difficulty of running bed and breakfasting deals was not a fault of the system. We are waiting for clarification from the Inland Revenue. Quite properly they want to see buy and sell totally separate," he said. But Justin Urquhart Stewart, business planning director at Barclays Stockbrokers, said: "The issue of bed and breakfasting has If CrestCo are waiting for Revenue approval they'll have

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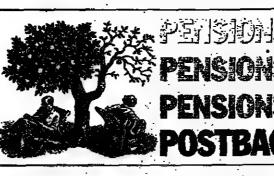
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Diane's dilemma

Sarah Jones on the benefits of

transferring or freezing a pension



reeze or transfer? With the culture of working for one company for life disappearing, more of us are moving on — through redundancy or choice — to another job and having to make that crucial decision about the company pension. Should you leave it where it is or take it with you to a new pension scheme. The decision is even trickier if your new employer does not offer a pension scheme, so your choice is between your old employer and a personal pension plan.

Diane Carter, of Solihull, writes: "I was made redundant after five years and was in a company pension scheme. to which I contributed for over: four years. I have now found another job but I am unsure about what to do with my pension. I would prefer to transfer it as I dislike my previous employers after the way I was treated. However, I have been told by a financial adviser at Bradford & Bingley that I cannot use my company pension to start up a personal pension plan and I can only transfer it to a new company pension. But my new employer does not run a scheme."

Weekend Money replies: The letter from the Bradford & Bingley adviser could have been better worded. When he wrote to tell you that your pension transfer could not be

sion plan, he meant that it was not permitted under B&B guidelines. You can indeed use it for a personal pension plan - or towards a new employer's scheme, a section 32 policy (a personal plan that purely houses the transfer value) or leave it where it is. However. the society has found that in most cases it is not worth transferring pensions worth less than E5,000 and therefore. since your transfer value is below that, the society cannot carry out a full analysis.

Your choice is between leaving your contributions in your old employer's scheme or taking a transfer value of £3.542 and starting a personal pension plan. Since the company pension is a final-salary scheme, you are choosing between certainty and specula-tion. With the final-salary scheme you are guaranteed a certain amount of pension. With a personal pension you speculate on doing better than the company scheme.

A pension left in a company scheme is not truly frozen. For a start it is protected from inflation. Your pension will rise. yearly at the rate of inflation tween 3 per cent and 5 per cent whichever is the lower. Peter Timberlake, Legal & General pensions expert, said: Many people act on an emotional basis. They think You made me redundant, so I'm going to take my pension



Diane Carter had only four years' pension contributions

away. Instead they should think You made me redundant so I'm going to make you pay me as much pension as possible. Company schemes often come with discretionary benefits not included in the transfer value, and you must find out what they are."

You should also consider your own future and that of both your old and new companies. Is your new job temporsry or long term; how long have you got to retirement, is there any chance that your new employer will start a com-pany scheme; and how secure is your old firm?

If you had worked for a large, blue-chip company it would make sense to freeze your pension. But there is a possibility that the company you worked for could close or be taken over, especially as you have another 30 years bef-

ore retirement age. You would keep your pension rights but will have to work hard at keeping in touch. The Pensions Tracing Agency in Newcastle helps pensioners who have lost contact with a previous

employer's pension scheme. The deciding factor will be the final reckoning: is the transfer value of your pension sufficient to buy in a personal pension plan at least those benefits that you would get in the company scheme? To work that out, you do need indepenmis-selling scandals, there are now tighter procedures pension forecasts and the figtires should show you whether it is worth transferring. If you can afford £60-£100 an hour, you can use the Society of Pension Consultants, Ludeste House, Ludgate Circus, London EC4A 2AB (0171 353 1688).

Care cover back on the agenda

I the next election. A recent survey found two-thirds of adults in their fifties said the policies of the political ong-term care, ignored in the Bud- With these, a lump sum is put in an funding care for the elderly would influence their votes in 1997. The Government year, one on long-term care insurance po-licies, the other on partnership schemes where the State rewards the individual for making provision for long-term care

by protecting more of their assets. But people are not waiting and are buying insurance now to cover cost of care hould they become incapable of "activities of daily living", such as washing and feeding themselves. Single-premium policies are more popular among people near retirement than regular pre which they fear they may not be able to keep up in future. But many do not want to lose a lump sum permanently in case they need it or die without needing care.

One product that is becoming more popular is investment-linked schemes.

out needing care, any residual value can. be passed to beneficiaries.

t present only a few companies offer these products but at least two new entrants are expected in 1997. The first to launch a product two years ago was Scottish Amicable European. Its success in attracting £85 million has encouraged others. This year Irish Life International and PPP have launched products, while Skandia Life is to launch a scheme in the new year. In order to make the products tax efficient and more affordable, all of the companies apart from PPP are situated offshore: Scottish Amicable European and Irish Life International are both based in Dublin, while Skandia's new product

will be sold from the Isle of Man. But not all advisers are happy with these products. Martin Telling of the Falcon Group in Bristol, a specialist longterm care insurance adviser who also heads a working group on the subject for the Independent Financial Adviser Association, said: "The fact that most of these products are sold by offshore companies changes under a Labour Government, it will after costings within the products."

He added that people should look critically at the cover provided. "Scottish Amicable's plan, for example, does not at resent give people access to any cours ling or help with arranging care if it hecomes necessary as a number of other providers do. I believe this is a very important part of any long-term care insurance package as elderly people often need assistance at this difficult time." He is happier with PPP's Lifetime Care Bond where a healthy man of 65 can buy cover for EL,000 a month care fees for a £22,500_

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Life insurers tighten up on ME claims

people suffering from drome (CFS) and myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) are encountering problems with their life insurers, according to the ME Association. This week it was disclosed that the Duchess of Kent was among the victims and had been advised by her doctors to cut

back on her commitments. More than 150,000 people are estimated to have developed ME in this country after catching a viral infection after prolonged fatigue. In addition to debilitating muscle pain and tiredness, sufferers experience insomnia and acute difficulties with concentration and comprehension. The Royal College of Physicians reckons that up to a million people could suffer from CFS.

Doctors, however, are divided as to whether either CFS or ME are specific illnesses or just a collection of symptoms in which fatigue dominates.
They also disagree over vhether the roots are mental

The passions behind the debate exploded into public in

Gavin Lumsden says medical

uncertainty has hit payments

August when Dr Thomas Stuttaford of The Times and Esther Rantzen, the television presenter, engaged in an ill-tempered television debate over whether ME was a clinic-

al or an imagined condition. The RCP has since completed a study into CFS, which, though authoritative, was un-able to make definitive conclusions about its nature. Such uncertainty has

caused CFS sufferers problems in the past when they have tried to claim on perma-nent health insurance policies. Numerous cases arose three years ago when some insurers either refused to recognise CFS as an illness or argued that its symptoms predated the policies being taken out. Charles Shepherd, medical director at the ME Association, says that, after a lull,

UK insurers are picking up on a trend in the US to tighten up

on the large number of claims from CFS sufferers. Those

who do have problems with their PHI policies should go through their insurer's internal appeals procedure. If this fails to satisfy, Dr Shepherd advises contacting the insurance ombudsman and obtaining a medical report from a ultant experienced in CFS

before taking legal advice.

People considering taking out a PHI policy should avoid those that exclude mental illness, as this will inevitably cause them problems if they develop CFS.

This is graphically illus-trated by the case of Mary Baker, a 46-yearold CFS sufferer from New Zealand, who is fighting Zurich Life, the Swiss company, after it stopped paying out on her PHI policy. Its contract contains a clause that stops payments after two years if the policyholder's inability to work is related to a mental or

Ms Baker was working as a life insurance broker at the US Air Force base in Aviano, Italy, when she decided to buy a PHI policy from Europea IMG, a financial adviser based in Horsham, West Sussex, which has since been renamed Goodhealth.

The policy, which was un-derwritten by Zurich Life in London, guaranteed to pay her NZ\$24,000 a year in quarterly instalments if she became disabled. At the end of 1993, while working as a volunteer in Croatia, she collapsed with physical exhaus-tion, and on returning to Aviano was diagnosed with

Unable to work she sent off her claim to Europea. She said: "I was a bit concerned as I was aware that some doctors do not accept it as a condition, but Zurich Life accepted its liability." Her pleasure was shortlived, she says, as, at the

ter, the company would ask for more medical information which caused delays in pay-

end of each subsequent quar-

in July 1995 she underwent



Clare Francis, author and round-the-world yachtswoman, suffered from ME and became a fundraiser for the illness

five-day hospital examination, which confirmed her condition was not depression. When the following payment was again delayed she complained to the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The ABI contacted Zurich Life and Ms Baker received her cheque

Meanwhile, her condition worsening, she was advised to return to New Zealand where she could have the support of her family. Shortly afterwards the company said it required an independent medical examination, insisting this was

done in Switzerland. Ms Baker agreed and appointments were made before she flew home. Unfortunately, days before she was due to fly to Switzerland, she was taken to hospital where she had a

Since then Zurich Life has

CFS is a mental illness and therefore Ms Baker does not qualify under the policy. It has also said that if she was fit enough to fly, she could work. points. Zurich Life refused to

we can no longer VI rely on the benefit system to maintain our standard of living should we be unlucky enough to fall ill and have to leave work.

A type of insurance policy called permanent health insurance was developed with this in mind.

As the name suggests, it provides cover should you fall ill and not be able to work, either permanently or temporarily. The idea is a good one, but the problem is that some of the providers are balking at paying out when customers make a claim.

They have set up numerous kinds of testing to catch out groups say these tests can be twisted to serve the purposes

of the provider. Earlier this year Weekend Money featured the case of Robert Napier who suffered has been racked with pain.

He claimed on his perma-nent health insurance policy ten years ago, but since then, Unum, his insurer, has challenged his illness despite the fact that his GP pronounced him an invalid.

Two years ago the company stopped paying altogether, relying on a report from a specialist who said that Mr Napier, now 50, had grossly exaggerated his disability.

But the High Court found that Mr Napler's case was perfectly genuine and that his payments of 60 per cent of his former salary of £62,500 should be reinstated. The case showed how insurers are prepared tochallenge a customer even in the face of conflicting medical reports.

What is permanent health insurance!

A it is insurance that re-places your income. If from a rheumatic illness. He you are unable to work for a has been racked with pain, set time your policy will pay a normally expect to earn until

The rules changed in April and all payments are now taxfree. The insurance company will make an open commitment to pay part of your salary until your planned retirement

age if necessary.

The maximum payout will be three quarters of gross earnings. Illnesses not covered include Aids, self-inflicted injuries and drugs not prescribed by doctors. Cheaper policies may not include ME or mental illness. Dangerous pastimes such as sky diving may not be covered or you may have to pay a higher

Some policies may pay out if you can only return to work part-time but you will have to pay extra for these. Some can be inflation-

Why would I want a PHI policy!

More than one million A More trian one many people in Britain have ness or disability for more

600,000 have been off for more than three years.

Benefits will not replace your salary: a family of four has to get by on just over £100 a week if the breadwinner is off work for more than six

How do I obtain per man How do I obtain perma-

First check if you are A insured under your employer's scheme. If you have a company pension, you may also have PHL

If not, you can purchase an individual policy after consult-ing an independent insurance broker (You will find a list from BIIBA).
The problem with employ-

ers' schemes is that you have to be employed to receive permanent health insurance payments. So, if you become too ill to work and start receiving payments and you are then fixed or made redundant as a result of your illness, DAVMENIS WILL SLOD. 1 Mis is because you are no longer

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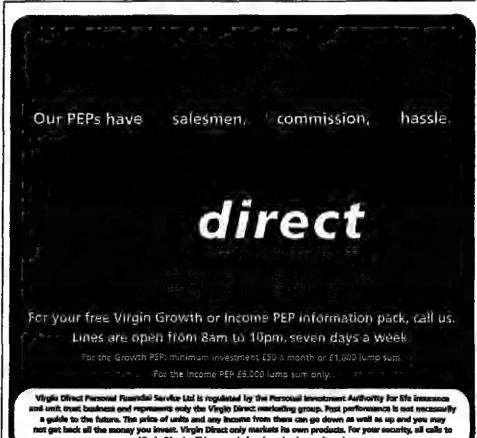
What small print danses should I look

A Ensure that the policy provides for "inability by reason of sickness to follow his or her occupation". Some policies will now say that you have to be unable to follow any profession or occupation not st your own. This means doctors, for example, have been turned down if they can still do clerical work.

Will I have to wait Defore I receive

Yes, all PHI schemes A Yes, all PHI schemes have a waiting period before you can claim. This is usually between 13 and 102 weeks, so check the conditions before you sign up. Generally, the longer the waiting period, the cheaper the cover. So weigh the savings up against the wait period. Waiting over six months may be counter-

JODY BRETKELLY



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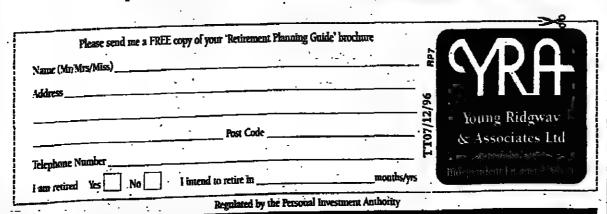


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IN FOCUS

The galloping recovery in the housing market is giving hope to

beleaguered housebuilders, among the hardest-hit sector in the

long recession. But investors should

remain cautious as many dangers

threaten to ambush the industry.

Last week the Nationwide Building

Society reported that house prices rose

by nearly 9 per cent over the past year,

and this week the Halifax Building

Society confirmed the upward trend.

with a slightly lower figure of 7.7 per

By contrast the prices of new homes

have fallen by 1.3 per cent over the

Roger Humber, director of the

House-Builders' Federation, says: "Al-

though we are seeing an increase in

volumes throughout the UK, price

increases are limited to London and the

South East. There is still not much joy

for the South West or anywhere north

Scott Fulton, building analyst at

cent for the year to November.

same period.

of Northampton."

growth forecasts. They are now trading a near 10 per cent discount to the rest of

Whether this presents a buying opportunity for gamble-happy inves-tors depends on housebuilders' ability to leap several looming hurdles. The first relates to interest rates. Higher base rates mean more expensive mortgages and a brake on the housing Merrill Lynch, the merchant bank, says share prices of housebuilding around 10 per cent of all housing transactions, could ride on the back of transactions around house.

market may be shortlived. A second in the South East where the recovery is hurdle is the price of land. It is in shorter supply now than in the early Eighties, so prices are likely to increase faster than house prices. The shortage: is particularly acute in London and the South East, where the recovery is

Housebuilders have already seen 50 per cent price increases in some cases. Many firms are also experiencing long delays in obtaining planning permission from local councils even for land

they already own.

A third hurdle is spiralling production costs. A nationwide skills shortage, thanks to the ravages of the recession, at a time of increasing demand, will push wage costs up. Building material suppliers will also be looking to charge more.

Mr Fulton sums up: "House price inflation should generate greater volume in the new houses, so 1997 presents: a rosy picture. But housebuilders will enjoy only a short time in the sun. This is the right time to buy on a short-term view." He recommends Berkley Group, the executive

strongest. Astute timing of land sales and purchases has contributed to a strong balance sheet.

The big volume builders, Barratt and Persimmon, are also recommended because of their impressive land banks. Barratt, trading at a 15 per cent discount to the rest of the market, looks good value.

Steve Charnock, building analyst at Charterhouse Tilney, the stockbroker, believes the medium-sized builders. such as Bellway, will have the fleribility to adapt quickly to the volatile market. Mr Humber at HBF is hopeful that rising disposable income, im-proved job security and the recent relatively benign Budget, will encourage continued growth in the new house market, despite the caveats outlined above. He expects around 155,000 new homes to be built next year, compared with an estimated 140,000 this year. But investors will need particularly

clear crystal balls to make the right investment decisions in such a capricious climate,

MATTHEW WALL



Pick of the little-by-little Peps

each month in personal equity plan regular savings schemes. Monthly contributions to these can be as little as £20. About 25 per cent of Pep investors invest via regular savings. This percentage is

continuing to rise with the arrival of mass-market providers such as Direct Line.

Rising expectations: housebuilders are looking to a further improvement in the new homes market but there are hurdles to be overcome

Building on recovery mood

The main benefit of the schemes is pound-cost averaging; when markets are falling. your monthly contribution buys more units or shares in the trust, cutting the average cost of

However, gains depend on the underlying performances of the investment. Many act as if they were putting money in a long-term building society account. They pay in year after year, without reviewing how their savings are doing in re-

Pep savings schemes also pay different yields and cost different amounts, and some have early-encashment penalties. Initial charges vary be tween nothing on HSBC's and Virgin's to 6 per cent on Eagle Star's general Pep. Annual management charges on plans range from nil to 1.5 per cent. NatWest's Pep savings plans carry no annual management charge but a high initial charge, while Morgan Grenell's Pep savings plans bear a

Some Pep savings schemes are geared towards growth and some towards income. Some of the newer corporate bond Peps carry high yields of 7 to 8 per cent. Because the annual management charge is usually taken out of income generated find out the size of the charge. It is also necessary to look at whether penalties are applied it a savings plan is encashed

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According to a survey by Planned Savings magazine, the top-performing Pep savings plans over the past five years were from Hill Samuel. Jupiter, Invesco, Old Mutual and Gartmore. A sum of £100 a month put in Hill Samuel's UK Emerging Companies Trust would now be worth Ell,505 on a total investment of £6,000. The same monthly investment in Jupiter's European and Income Pep savings plans would be worth £11.437 and £10,960, respectively. The same investment in Investors UK smaller companies trust and European smaller companies trust would be worth E10,819 and £10,770.

Putting a £6,000 lump sum in the Hill Samuel trust five years ago would have pro-duced £19,529 at the start of October this year. A £6,000 lump in Jupiter's Income fund would have produced £17,443.

The top lump sum trust may not be the top savings scheme. Thorntons UK Smaller Companies fund is the eighth-best unit trust Pep for a lump sum, but sixteenth when regular savings are considered. ☐ BESt Investment, the independent financial adviser, will give £30 to the NSPCC for every commission-paying lump sum Pep taken out via BESt PEP magazine. For free

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that performs the best INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE (also costs the least) NOV 95 to NOV 96 18.5% Legal & General Kleinwort Benson 18.47% 17,92% 17.90% A glance at the table Average UK Income & Growth Trust 16.08% will show that - since its launch one year ago - the index-fracking PEP from Legal & General has proved

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Sarah Jones takes a seasonal look at a risk-free investment

Take Tessa to the party for that extra sparkle

ormally a quiet time for Tessa, this year it looks as if there may be a little more sparkle to her Christmas. With talk of interest rate rises, competition could once again hot up among Tessa providers.

"When the move on savers' rates comes, we should start to see a divergence in Tessa rates, "says Alastair Altham of Johnson Fry Asset Managers. Where providers are keen to get new depositors, and tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) are a good way of doing that, they are likely to raise their rates. Most Tessas are taken out between January and April in anticipation of the end of the tax year,"

investors fail to shop around, especially for followon Tessas, but there are attrac-tive rates available. Moreover last time round the best returns came from the smaller building societies - in other words, from those providers most likely to be taken over or merge over the next five years, giving you the chance of an extra merger bonus from your Possible diotations

appear in the best buy charts. However fixed rates should For a follow-on Tessa, for only be for those who want example. National Counties is offering a variable 7.2 per cent, the Marsden a variable 7 per cent and the West Bromwich 7.45 per cent fixed. The Inflation Beater Tessa

from the society most rumoured for flotation. Birmingham Midshires, guar-antées to be 3 per cent above the retail price index and is currently at 7 per cent. Mini-mum deposit is £1,000 and it is also available as a first Tessa.

Other first Tessas include West Bronzwich's variable 7 per cent and 6.8 per cent from both Market Harborough and the Principality. For fixed first Tessas, Yorkshire is paying 7.3 per cent and Birmingham Midshires 7.05 per cent.

With expectations of base-rate rises, savers may assume that fixed rates should be avoided. Not so, says Mr Altham. "Don't be bamboozled by talk of shortterm rates rising. Long-term rates in the money markets have not changed dramatically so many fixed rates still look good and won't necessarily rise as

absolute security, and can tie themselves in for five years. The best option is to go for a variable rate that has low penalties for early exit, so you can move providers if you see a more competitive rate.

Tessas are still the most taxefficient risk-free product on offer from the bank or building society. However the amounts you can invest are himited: if it is your first Tessa you can save up to £3,000 in the first year and £1,800 in to the maximum £9,000. Some first Tessas demand the full E9,000 which is put into a feeder account.

f it is your second Tessa, you can put in all of the capital saved — but not the tax-free interest earned from your first Tessa. But you have only six months from the maturation date of your first Tessa to decide which new one to go for. If your maturation date is pending, you should be able to find a decent follow-on rate over the coming months.

for savers, providers are looking more like Scrooge than Santa. There will be no quarter of a per cent rise across the board for savers, as there has been a wholesale rise for borrowers. Instead the promised increases will be on selected savings products and of a varying amount. Moreover, with lenders quick to announce mortgage

The average savings rate rise at Northern Rock, for example, will be 0.3 per cent, although the mortgage rate has gone up 0.5 per cent. It is also likely that only the top tiers of the postal accounts the product by which Northern Rock does most of its fighting for new customers ill be touched.

changes, savers are kept hang-

ing on for news.

The Coventry has raised its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent, but has remarkably little information on savings rates. A spokeswoman says: "Rates will go up on January I, but we need to see what happens in the marketplace before we decide which products will be affected." Abbey National has raised its

FOLLOW-ON TESSAS - PERCENTAGE GROSS

Savings rates are to go up from 0.05 per cent to 0.25 per cent, though some fixed-rate bonds will rise 0.35 per cent.

"It is not as simple as putting up one mortgage rate. Different products have different competitive strings attached to them," says an Abbey spokesman. "We have to look at the market and if a product is already competitive, it will not rise so much."

The Abbey will be changing its rates for savers with effect from Janu-

Rates on the Abbey Instant Saver account currently range from 0.50 per cent to 3.50 per cent. From the beginning of next year, they will range from 0.50 per cent to 3.65 per cent, hardly leaving savers better off at all,

For example, a balance of £5,000 currently earns 2.70 per cent, which will be raised to 2.75 per cent. Investment Account rates will be increased from between 3 per cent to 4.75



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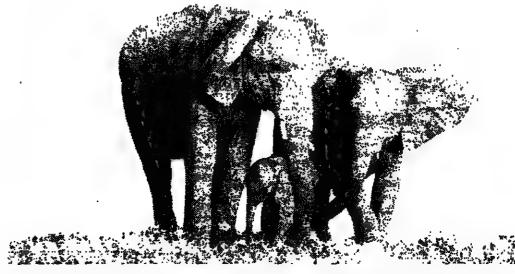
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Beginner's guide to world of Peps

new booklet, An Intro-duction to Peps, by Roger Anderson and Joanna Slaughter and sponsored by the Prudential provides a simple explanation of how personal equity plans work and for which types of investors they are suitable. There are sections on the different types of plan and how to transfer your investment to another manager if you are dissatisfied with the performance of your current plan. For a free copy, ring 0800 000000 Mon to Fri 8am-8pm, weekends !Gam-2pm.

■ WE are encouraged to be charitable at Christmas but the Charity Commission has given warning to curb your generosity until you are sure the cause is genuine. Bogus collectors prey on the unsuspecting during the festive season. The commission advises that those collecting either door-to-door or in a pub must have a permit from the local authority, the Department of National Heritage or the Metropolitan Police in London. Only put money into sealed boxes and always make cheques out in the name of the charity. If you are suspicious, ring the CC on 0171-210 4556.

PUTTING a child through higher education can cost as much as £17.400. But few families make provision for this bill, although it is now proposed that the maintenance grant be entirely replaced with a system of loans. Barclays has produced a guide to help parents to invest. For a free copy, ring 0800

■ BECAUSE of the increase in the tax levied on insurance. travel insurance premiums are likely to rise next year by up to 20 per cent. By taking out an annual travel insurance policy before December 31, travellers will be able to avoid these price increases for the next 12 months.

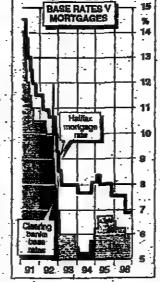
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Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	Advantage Visa Visa MasterCard/Visa	0.64%NC 0.80%N 0.92%C	7,90%N 9,90%N 11,50%	Ni Ni Ni
£? PERSO	ONAL LOANS B	EST BUYS		
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payme with insurance	nt on £3,00	0 for 3yrs insurance

ne 0141 2489966	14.80%E	£114.25	£102.48 ·	
Interest free period, E = Available to tes variable), H = Higher rate appl d on maturity, P = By Post only	o comprehensive motor insurences if insurence not arranged, N	e policy holdern over 22 ye introductory rate for a lin	ers, F = Fixed Flate alted period, OM =	
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SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	- Age 70
Equitable I Laval Sun Li of Can Level Canada I Level Generali Level Standard Li Laval	· · · · · ·	£10,277 £9,881 £9,828 £9,844 £9,776	£11,187 £10,920 £10,905 £10,880 £10,844	£12,381 £12,340 £12,375 £12,230 £12,248
	Femals:	Age 60	Aga 65	Age 70
Equitable LfLevel Cenada LifeLavel Nonvich UnionLavel Sun Lf of CanLevel PrudentialLavel		29,350 £9,133 £9,129 £9,142 £9,082	£10,027 £9,837 £9,882 £9,880 £9,847	£10,975 £11,118 £10,989 £10,966 £10,949
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Maie:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70

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for 2 years

Equitable LfLevel Cenada LifeLevel Norwich UnionLevel Sun Lf of CenLevel	29,350 29,133 29,129 29,142 29,082	£10,027 £9,887 £9,882 £9,880 £9,847	£10,975 £11,118 £10,985 £10,945
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS	Male: Age 60 male: Age 55	Age 60 Age 60	Age 7(Age 6
Equitable LfLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel Canada LffeLevel Norwich UnLevel Generali	- 29,046 28,768 28,709 28,698 28,681	£9,563 £9,340 £9,324 £9,259 £9,252	£10,270 £10,157 £10,196 £10,086 £10,114
* Maximum purchase 2100,000, Hig Source: Armain Direct (7171 538 8.5 Statistics comp	cd)		
%			
Lander rate %	Loan Max	Notes	
Building Societies Bristol & West 1.95 0800 608088	£15k+95-	5,04% dis	disc 6mt

	ANN	UAL INCOME	
	Rates as a	t December 5, 1996	
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%
1 Year	•		
	1,000	Premium Life	4.60
	10,000	Premium Life	5.80
	20,000	Premium Life	6.00
	60,000	Promium Life	6.10
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.30
	10,000	Premium Life	6.05
	20,000	Premium Life	6.20
	50,000	Premium Life	6:30
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.60
	10,000	Premium Life	6.25
	20,000	Premium Life	6.35
	50,000	Premium Life	6.40
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5,60
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6,35
Years	•		
	1,000	Premium Life -	5.90
	3,000	ITT Lon & Edin	6.45

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

		100			
FIXED RATE	Gross	Buying price	Gross yield	lseue price	Minimum purchase purchase
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	105.04	8,914	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	128.09	9.075	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	144.02	9.026	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	147.84	9.047	100.34	1,000
Britan nia	13.000%	143.67	9,048	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	135.42	8.923	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	126,99	9,253	100.25	10,000
ialitax	8.750%	100.55	8.702	100.62	50,000
-lelifax	12.000%	134.22	8.644	100.28	50,000
lalifax	13,625%	155.06	8,787	100.00	50,000
eeds & Holbeck	13.375%	150.25	8.902	100.23	1,000
Vewcaste	10.750%	121.71	8.816	100.32	1,000
Newcastle - Northem Rock	12.625% 12.625%	140.74 144.30	8.971 8.749	100.45	1,000
Kipton	12.875%	144.20	8.928	100.48	1,000
FLOATING RATE	Gross	Buyi	ng li	MON.	Minimum
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First Nat(20/09-20/03)	8.48750%	101.	63 10	2.00	1,000
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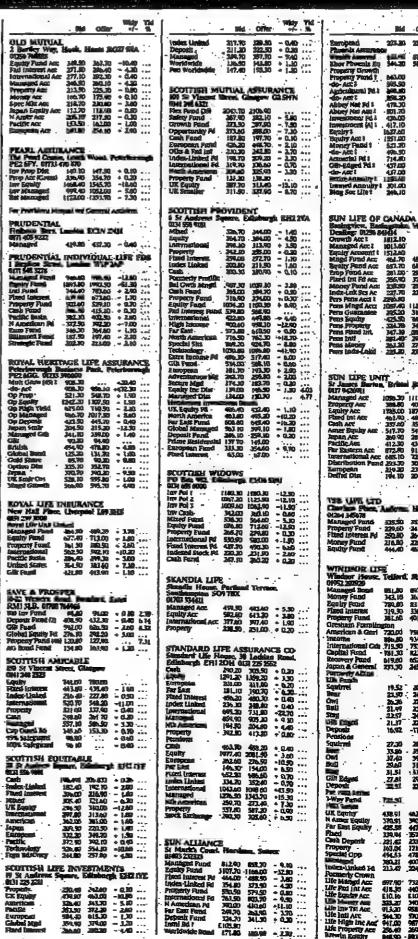
Lender	rainesi rain %	Loen eize	Mex %	Notes
Building Societies Afflance & Leic 0181 742 0471	1.39	£200-300k	75,	Disc of 5.8% until 1.10.97
Nationwide 0800 302010	2.84	to 2500k	75	3.90% discour
Bristol & West 0800 608088	1.95	215k+	90	Powed at 1.95% to 1.10.97
Sanks Bank of Ireland 01734 610100	0.99	220-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mth
Midland 0800 494 999	3.74	2100k+	80	3% discount fo 1 year
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Sarborough 0800 590547				8.78%dsc-6mt
Suliding Socialism	0.25 0.50	230-100k 290-120k	%	
Scarborough 0800 590547 Chorley & District	0.25	930-100k	% ES	8.75%dsc-6mt 2%-6m,0.5%-1 6% discount fo
Earliding Societies Scarborough 0800 590547 Chorley & District 01267 279373 Manufald	0.25 0.50	230-100k 290-120k	% 85	8.75% disc 6ml 2% 6m,0.5% 1 5% discount to 6 months 6.85% disc 8mt

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For anu agent the A&L stance For and against

From Mr Matt Lee Sir, I would like to offer some support for the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, as I believe a lot of recent criticism is unfair. How people can say that the disabled are being discriminated against is ludicrous, this only occurs when the first name is that of a carer who possesses an account themselves and certainly these cases should receive attention from the society, but take note PERSON ANNUING there are also others in this situation, therefore it can't, by

lefinition. be discrimination.
As for the individuals who laim they should receive nore, they should go back to ursery school. The society hade it very clear that the hare distribution plans were ndecided and just as any ther investment it was a amble. It is a loss of one vote 'hich is being compensated nd to this end the individuals encerned may vote against te conversion or vote for it ad accept one bonus. burs faithfully, 2 Taft Hall,

Campaign, Inois 61820, United States.

Fim Mr G. Nicholson S Mr Mountain (Freestres row deepens, Novem-b.9) should realise all methocof keeping savings carry a ri. Bank notes hidden under floboards will be eaten away byinflation, if not by mice. Sires can lose part or all of thr value, and returns on all our investments are almost crain to be less than could he been earned elsewhere.

ME BUYERS

in a large sum in a build-insociety account to perform w, not only must the society covert in the short term, but itulso must pay variable buses which are sufficiently gduated to reflect the large arunt on deposit. Even now wio not know if this will be th case with the Halifax

viable share distribution. Ir Mountain took somethg of a gamble in leaving £0,000 plus with the A&L. hing that the bonus payout wild more than compensate for the relatively low rate of irrest he was getting. If he bked the wrong horse he h only himself to blame. Yurs faithfully, COFFREY NICHOLSON,

9Broadbottom Road. wtram, Cheshire,

Im Mr D.B. Marchant 5. My wife and 1, as regular sers with the A&L since i9, ieel similarly aggrieved tJane Beer (What a differce a day makes, November We allowed our balance to op to £93.61 between Sepinber 30 and October 20. Our account normally holds tween £1,000 and £2,000. nly twice has it dropped low £100 - once in 1993 and ; above. So now we are not dy deprived of a vote but so free shares. If interest had en added, we would proba-y have been OK. We feel the unter staff should have arned us of the consequences our withdrawal. ours faithfully. ENNIS MARCHANT. Freeman Way. uorn, Leicestershire.

THE REAL MONDY OF THERS

The iniquities of student grant calculations

Sir, I was very interested to read your article (Call for less tax on family values, November 9) showing that remaining married is a severe disadvan-

tage to one's tax health.
This is true, but I would point out that the disadvantages imposed by the national tax system pale into insignificance when compared with the disadvantages suffered by a married couple, whose children attend university and who are seeking financial support from their local authority. Essentially, the grossly unfair rule is that the income of step parents and the contributions made by a divorced (absent)

parent are not taken into

account when assessing the grants available to university

This leads to the most blarantly inequitable situa-tions, for example a woman not working, and therefore with no apparent income of her own, whose two children are at university, married to a man with a very high income, is assessed as having zero income and therefore both the children receive full local au-

thority grants. The minimum that this costs the local authority is £3,420 pa, and if the students are medical students on clinical work, it could well cost the local authority upward of £7.000 pa. The new husband's income may well be such that he can afford to give both his

Victim support

From Mr A.G. Phillips Sir. All credit to Anne Ashworth (Contemptible tendency to blame victims. November l6) for her pressing in her column for action for the victims of pensions mis-

There has long been a tendency to investigate crimes which involve even modest violence with more vigour than those which "merely" result in the victims incurring financial loss.

Even then, the emphasis is on the perpetrator of the crime. The situation with acci-

dents is even worse.

To the best of my know-ledge, there are still many cases of the victims of air disasters which occurred in the 1980s, of coach crashes almost as long ago and of many other accidents at football stadiums and on the roads, where liability has been challenged, where the victin have yet to receive any kind of compensation at all.

Not only have they suffered personal loss, the loss of a. breadwinner and possibly trauma as well, but continue to be denied any financial

And of course, we all pay for

losses resulting from computer fraud, the full extent of which is not declared, or even not detected, by large companies. Yours faithfully. ANTHONY PHILLIPS. 32 Upper Street.



عكذا من رلامل

Many parents are outraged at the way some people cynically exploit grants for students for our children at university

in spite of a relatively modest

where someone has remar-

butions made by an absent,

step children brand new cars for their 18th birthday

At the very least, this deprives the local authority's education budget of funds which could well be spent on much more deserving targets. Moreover, since the recipients of this largesse tend to crow about it to those of us unfortunate enough to have remained married and, therefore, reuired to pay through the nose

in order to assess parental contributions to the support of

income, it gives rise to under-standable resentment. I cannot believe that it is Until this is done, the entire difficult for local authorities to system will continue to be an inequitable farce, and local require information about the income of both partners, ried, or indeed, is living in a undeserving recipients. Yours faithfully, stable relationship or to re-J. HORWOOD, quire information about the financial or "in kind" contri-

76 Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, Kent.

Bad news for those awaiting Revenue refunds with interest



From Mr. L.J. How Sir,I am sorry to inform Mr Abbott (Letters, November 30) and any other readers hoping to obtain 6.25 per cent interest tax-free from the Revenue by overpaying their taxes, that the rules are skewed against them.

Any payment of tax above that demanded will not qualify for interest on repay-ment. Under the new selfassessment, demands are based on the previous year's tax, so refunds are only

likely to arise to those with falling incomes or who, for instance, ceased trading the previous year. (They still get demands). On the other hand, interest charges and surcharges await those who underpay "on account" without due reason, among which, shortage of money is not included. The taxpayer cannot win. Yours faithfully,

LJ. HOW, (Ex-Inspector of Taxes),

13 Wood Street, Penarth.

university students.

authorities will be paying out enormous sums of money to

Singles plea

From Ms A. Le Cornu Sir, As a single person recently returned to the UK and who finds payment of rent an excessively large churk of her salary, yet who prefers not to be obliged to share, I write in wholehearted support of Elizabeth Balsom's letter (Tax and the single girl, November 23) where she brings attention to the fact that single people must bear 100 per cent of many costs alone. Any proposal by whatever government to raise tax for those living alone will be a serious hardship in a society which increasingly discriminates against singles — to the extent that even holidays demand a "single (and prohibitive) supplement" if they prefer not to sleep with a complete stranger; whether male or female is not usually specified. I plead for more awareness of the true hardships faced by many people living alone. Yours faithfully. ALISON LE CORNU, 22 Joel Street.

Northwood Hills, Middlesex.

Double trouble

From Mrs. J. Davies Sir,I was intrigued to read (Hotel shares are still hot property, November 30) that Stakis Hotels is buying Metropole Hotels for £327 million. Would Stakis have done better to spend a fraction of this sum

incorporating a few single rooms into their new hotels? We have been told the Bath hotel has no single rooms. Clever ch? Then you charge extra for any single person who has to sleep in a double room. Is there not discrimination or exploitation here? Yours faithfully. JUDITH DAVIES, 43 Parkwood Road,

Tavistock, Devon.

SELLING YOUR ENDOWNENTS

FOR BIGGER MONEY

CALL SEC NOW 0181 207 1666

SEC, Britain's biggest buyer of endowments will pay you

much more than the surrender value. Phone our helpful staff now for that extra cash and peace of mind. Your policy must be at least 8 years old and

satisfy our selection criteria. FAX: 0181 207 4950 AP SECURITISED ENDOWMENT CONTRACTS PLC MM SEC House, 49 Theobel St., Borelsmood, Herts W706 482.

🚽 📲 Plain-Speaking, Home Insurance 🕺 Renewing your Home Insurance in December or January?

UPTO 1st year's Buildings premiums

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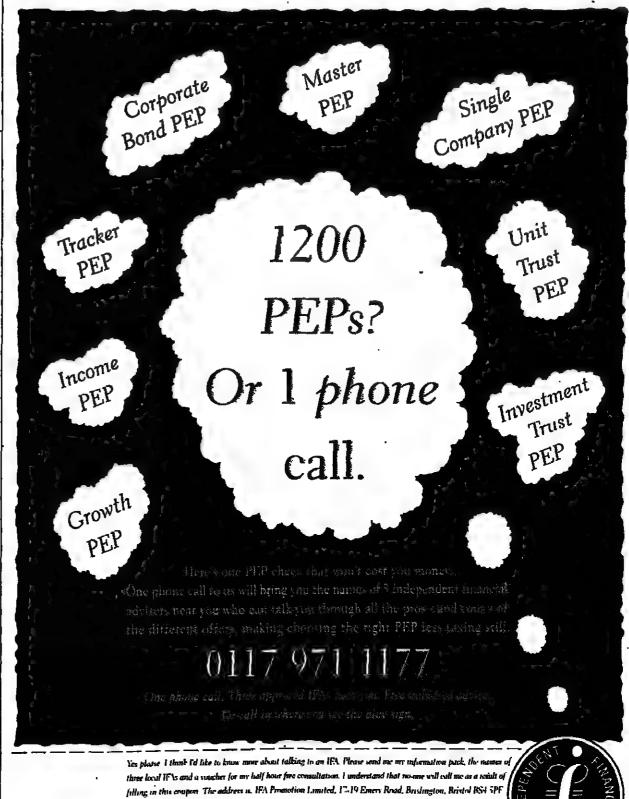
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RACING

Silver Groom earns vote in open contest

THE £50.000-added William A more telling factor is likely to be the drying ground; the Hill Handicap Hurdle (3.05) at Sandown today represents a victory for sensible planning. Two years ago Teinein might have carried 10st 12lb, faced around half his 14 oppolished, the well-backed nents, started close to odds-on and won in a common canter. However, an overhaul of the

race conditions has achieved the desired effect. The earlyclosing condition, embracing counter at Cheltenham. That minimal penalties, has been abandoned, and a ceiling imposed on the highest-rated horse means that no top-class hurdler can compress the

conveniently weighted near the foot of the handicap.

The race was dead in the water," David Hood, William Hill's racecourse representa-tive, said, "Under the old conditions they would understandably have run scared of Teinein, but this time there would have been 20 runners with some give in the ground. It is a good, competitive race, is what everyone

occasion to suit a stablemate

Teinein still holds a fine chance. Yet the fast-improving gelding is no blot on the handicap, a fact reflected by his 11-4 quote from the sponsor. He is an attractively priced favourite, but there are plenty of alternatives for those prepared to look elsewhere. Teineln is 16lb higher than

five-year-old has never prevailed with the word "firm" in the official going and looks worth opposing. It also remains to be seen how Embel-

challenger from Ireland, copes with the likely fast ground. Mystical City, Barna Boy and Make A Stand are closely matched on their recent en-

Nap: MULLIGAN (L20 Sandown Park) Next best: Silver Groom (3.05 Sandown Park)

represents solid form, but Silver Groom's emphatic victory at Ascot, where Barna Boy finished 91 lengths third, makes Reg Akehurst's candidate attractive at the weights. Silver Groom goes particularly well on a sound surface and

merits the vote. Highlight of the Chepstow card is the Rehearsal Chase (2.20), a £30.000-added handicap of limited weight range designed to attract the top chasers in the country. It has failed in this respect, even if the contest is intriguingly

The highest-weighted horse, on list 10th, is Mr Mulligan,

who, together with Trying Again, St Mellion Fairway and Sister Stephanie, is embarking on his first season outside the novice ranks. Official handicappers maintain that the apparent lack of high-class steeplethasers is an illusion, yet the Rehearsal Chase has attracted just three seasoned campaigners. Only one of them, Belmont King, will be running from his proper handicap mark.

Four years ago several soft opportunities for high-class steeplechasers were culled from the programme. Recently, a spate of valuable bandicaps chases have been run on lively ground. However, the suggestion that countless trainers are begging for suitable opportunities is hardly vindicated by the field at Chepsiow, where easy ground is available. Further pruning of the steeplechase pro-

gramme appears mevitable.

If Mr Mulligan is allowed an easy lead he may not be punished for hitting the occasional fence, but he looksvulnerable on his reappear-ance. A strong gallop would stretch Trying Again's suspect stamina. Belmont King has not run for 19 months, while St Mellion Fairway has yet to master his art. With Grange Brake and Sister Sephanie some way out of the handicap.

1.45 .e.c. brown bookwaker handlap chase



Mr Molligan makes his seasonal debut in the Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow today

THUNDERER 2,30 Sound Man 3.05 EMBELLISHED (nap) COME: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) 12.50 EMEL CHASE (56,873: 3in 110yd) (4 minors) NETTING 6-4 bager Summi, 2-1 HB OF Turbon, 11-4 Energation, 6-1 fembris. 1996: HELL DE-THILLOW 6-11-4 R Derivativ (5-4) D Michelle 1.20 HENRY VIII NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £14,848: 2m) (4 Juness) 25-4127 DOWN THE FELL 14 (F.G.S) (Mrs. 5 Johnson) J. Hommed Johnson 7-11-4 M. William 2034-12. (AMD) AFRA 20 (D.BF.G.S) (F.Ford) P. Weither 9-11-0 J. Dist 11-1217 MRSTER (DRIM) (F.G.S) (M. Macchalor) M. Williamson 7-11-0 R. Downs 1001-11 MLLIGAN 17 (D.G.S) (Ludy Haute) D. Hickolson 6-11-0 A. Weithelm 17 (D.G.S) (Ludy Haute) D. Hickolson 6-11-0 A. Weithelm 17 (D.G.S) (Ludy Haute) D. Hickolson 6-11-0 A. Weithelm 18-11-0 A. Weithelm 18-11-0 A. Weithelm 19-11-0 A. W Migur, 3-1 Mister Doiro, 4-1 Land Alier, 8-1 Down The Fed. 1985: CSRTANNLY STRONES 3-10-0 R Damenuty (5-1) D Michelson & no 1.55 THAMES VALLEY EGGS NOVICES HANDICAP HORBLE (£5,576; 2m 110yd) (9 nunners) FORM FOCUS 2.30 arresposal should thank creek thoray chase (Grade L E31,840: 2m) (4 numers) FORM FOCUS LORD, DORCET short-hand and 151 Sri of 7 to the transport of the short Callinov Bay 3161 in 4-waser handless the short Callinov Bay 3161 in 4-waser handless charter at Autor (2m, poot), VROBG FLAGSHP bas chart can at the short bay 3161 in 4-waser handless charter at Autor (2m, poot), VROBG FLAGSHP bas SOURD MAN 71 in 4-waser specie 1 Macron Mailing Chart at Charter (2m, poot), STURBI Charter (2m, poot), VROBG FLAGSHP bas charter (2m, po 3.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDLE PRIMOLE (235,316: 2m 110yd) (15 namers)

1992: CHEP'S SONG 9-10-10 B Dunmondy (15-2) S Dow 22 nm FORM FOCUS

1995: REDEBNYOURSELF 6-10-3 A P McCov (11-I) 3 (Mont 6 mm

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(£5,347: 2m 6f) (5 runners)

3.40 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE

ready for acti

CHEPSTON 12.45 Stevia's Wonder 2.20 Mr Mulican 2.50 Treed The Boards 1.15 Cadougold 3.20 Or Royal 1.45 Billygoet Gruff, The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.50 DEVON PEASANT. GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

12.45 DECEMBER MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: 22,694: 2m 110yd) (10 runners)

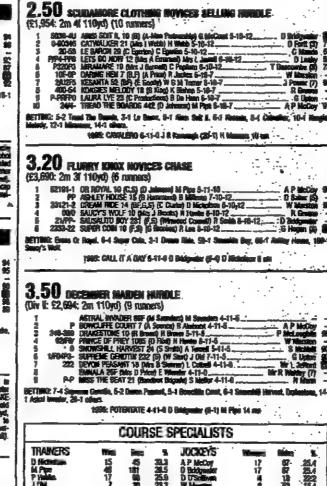
1.15 TRIBER TOPPERS HANDICAP HURDLE BEC1 (£4,936: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 sunners) Long bandicus; Nici, The Best 9-12.

SETTINO: 2-1 Speaking Yamar, 3-2 Kingdom of Studen, 4-1 Cabougold, 7-1 Little Germer, 3-1 others. 1988: SELLS LIFE 8-10-11 G Towney (18-1) P Hobbe 13 res FORM FOCUS

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1904: GRANGE BRANE 9-10-2 D Walsh (12-1) M Freston-Doves 2 nm	
FORM FOCUS	
MET MILLLISAN & Shel of 12 to Nobibes Lad in Sim TERAO distant last of 6 to Absolum's Lady in Allance Chair all Challesham (Sim 11, good to soft). Hilliam Gold Cap Leight Hundicap Chair at Easter HYPING AGAIN completed his-leck, best Old (2m 11 110yd, good to soft). GRANGE BRANCE	8

Blinkered first time



D History M Page P Habbs J DM It Twisse-Open P Widow CHEPSTOW: 2.90 Daring Hen. TOWCESTER: 12.55 Happy Jack, WETHERBY: 3.15 Hospur Street, WOLVERHAMFTON: 3.20 General Academic STOWN STREET 1.55 PATTISHALL HANDICAP HURDLE

2FGF-60 DAFK HONEY 7 (CD.6.5) (R Super) S Dop-11-14-10. 61162-2 DAFA RAMMULEN 36 (F.6) (2 Housen) Mice S Half 7-11-6. 22/31-4 REPLUIN 20 (F.6.5) (1 Walkins) D Georgicolo 7-11-2. 22/31-43 THI 17 (D.F.5) (F.Prion) J Januaris 6-10-13. 0006F-5 COKRIBNY BOT 70 (D.F.6.5) (S Hornstock) Mick J Plasma 11-10-6. GETTENIC; 5-4 Tem Humbler, 2-1 Tett, 4-1 Mymbol, 6-7 Duck Horbey, 20-1 Columny Buy DARY HOMEY 31 and muck 3rd of 9 in Subben Spinner in novice chans here (2m 4f 110yd, good to 3mile, 17m) and 17m) and 17m) and 17m) are subsequently changed by 3mile and 2mile of 5 to 5-money translation provide at Vanagian (2m 5) and 10 5mile. Spinner TAPIA RAMBELER

Sound Man for repeat

TODAY'S RACES

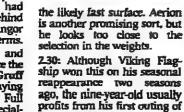
ON TELEVISION

CHEPSTOW **BBCI**

1.15: Sparkling Yasmin goes well at this venue, but this tough mare would prefer a greater test of stamina. Kingdom Of Shades developed into a smart novice last term, but is unproven beyond two miles. With Cadougold fully exposed, an interest on Little Gunner is suggested. A win-ner at the minimum trip in April, Little Gunner had Sparkling Yasmin well behind over three miles at Bangor and reopposes on better terms. 1.45: Bond Jnr. Nazzaro and Time Enough tend to force the pace so Billygoat Gruff should enjoy the true staying test on which he thrives. Full Of Oats is a Warwick specialist, while Samlee's jumping is unreliable. 2.15: See above.

SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL 4

1.55: Resist The Force was so impressive on his Ascot hurdles debut that he cannot be opposed, even with the maximum impost. The six-year-old defied a three-year absence on that occasion and can act on



the campaign. He may strug-gle to cope with Sound Man, the winner last year and guaranteed to be fully fit. Furthermore, the Irish challenger appreciates a sound surface, as he showed when dismissing Storm Alert here 12 months ago. Lord Dorcet looks outclassed. 3.05: See above.

3.40: Tara Rambler should prove hard to beat. The seven-

BACING HELT MEEK

MONDAY: Folkestone (first race, 1 00), Ludiow (12.40), Musselburgh (12.20). TUESDAY: Huntingdon (12 30), Pumpton (12 40), Sedgefeld (12 50) WEDNESDAY: Hextram (12 50), Leocaster (100), Lingüeld Park (AW, 1.10)

THURSDAY: Fakenham (12.50), Sandown Park (100), Taunton (1.10). FRIDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.15), Don-caster (12.05), Lingfield Park (AW, 12.25)

SATURDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.50). Doncaster (C4, 12.15), Haydock Park (HBC, 12.45), LingSeld Park (12.10), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00) Flat meetings in both

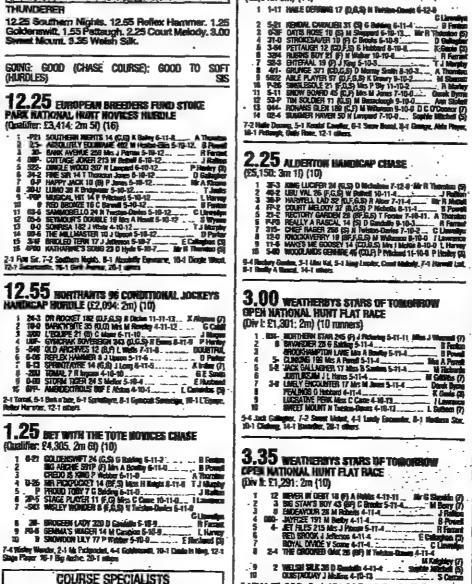
year-old showed plenty of zest on his reappearance, losing out only narrowly to Burnt Imp. That form was endorsed when the third home, Dally Boy, won comfortably next time out. Khalidi ran respectably at Huntingdon recently but Tim, an easy winner in a poor race at Kempton last month, looks a bigger threat. Dark Honey has descended the handicap but his stable is out of form.

WOLVERHAMPTON CHANNEL 4

2.45: Cim Born Born galloped to a resounding victory on his all-weather debut here, but faces a much stiffer task this time. Others with chances include Cretan Gift, Chewit and Chickawicka, the lastnamed a winner on turf and over hurdles in the last five months. But Anzie, plucked by Gay Kelleway from an allweather claimer ten months ago, has undergone a remarkable metamorphosis. He has since landed a Pattern race in Ireland, yet gets in here 14lb lower than his turf rating. 3.20: Like the previous contest,

this race was heavily over-subscribed, which shows the potential of all-weather Flat racing in winter. The bigger trainers are gradually accepting its benefits, but the problem here is that few allweather regulars are repre-sented. Decorated Hero can complete a lucrative autumn campaign. John Gosden's representative is favoured by easy ground and should act on this artificial surface. Prince Of Andres, the winner 12 months ago, appears on the wane and bigger dangers are Blomberg. Nijo and Celestial Key.

JULIAN MUSCAT



handicap at Cheltenham next week.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

193/MERS: D Michillan, 23 words from 54 minutes. 225%; C Sooks, 7 kpm 77, 25 9%; C Mane, 3 term 12, 25,0%, T Biocombines, 6 fan 27, 222%; bits J Pannin, 9 from 41, 22,0%, D Gadadia, 7 from 35, 18 4%.

DCXEYS: D Callaghar, 18 tenters from 50 febra, 20 0%, 8 Festion, 3 fees 18, 16,7%, 6 December, 5 fees 34, 14,7%, 16 Rechards, 3 fees 27, 21,7%. Only quackers.

Pick up the phone PICK UP A £10° FREE BET FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS staking £25 or more using Switch or Delta bank er building society debit cards. 2 miles 110 yards, Sandown 3.05pm, Live on CH4 TV. 11/4 Teinein 14/1 Mystical City 9/2 Embellished 16/1 Barna Boy 7/1 Direct Route 16/1 Master Beveled 7/1 Silver Groom 25/1 Dreams End 10/1 Eskimo Nei . 33/1 Tidjani 12/1 Charming Girl 33/1 Urban Dancing 12/1 Make A Stand 150/1 Nashville Star 14/1 Flying Instructor Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1,2,3. Priors subject to fluctuation. Busiable up to First Show: Tatterads Rule 4ft) may apply, Non turner – no bet LATEST COORS ON WELLING THE TV TEXT Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603 RING TODAY BET TODAY *0800 44 40 40* Pree bet is a \$10 Straight For on the William Hill Handleap Hur today. (Please place your bet a make your free bet selection within the same call) 7-4 Welch Salt, 7-2 No Coming Dat. 9-2 Moor in Onle, 6-7 Mig Shor's Boy, Jet Files, 12-1 Bulennur, 16-4 others. Ask Tom an impressive winner at Newbury last Saturday, misses the Tingle Creek Trophy at Sandown today in Evour of a TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT PRESPHONE 0800 299 892 WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLIES SHEET TO REACTUATION.

RACELINE 0930 168+ CHEPSTOW 102 202 103 203 WETHERSY. TOWCESTER 104 204 W'HAMPTON 105 205

.

O'Dwyer enjoying just deserts



MOOWN PARY

On an Irish jockey making rapid strides

cool, crisp morning at Windsor and Conor O'Dwyer needs a shave. "I'll be out in a. minute," he calls over his shoulder, disappearing into the cosy confines of the weighing room. The five o'clock shadow is excusable. O'Dwyer has been up early riding work for his new boss, Kim Bailey. These are still impressionable days and, like a schoolhoy at interview, he needs to be presentable.

After the first race, in which he gives Music Please an introduction to the art of hurdling, O'Dwyer is ready to. talk. He does so easily in a soft Wexford accent, with the humour and self-deprecation which tells of lessons learnt the hard way.

Luck, that fickle commodity which dominates life in this travelling circus, has blessed O'Dwyer with good health, but not enough good horses. Until, that is, he was united by chance with a tough young chaser called Imperial Call and was swept up the Cheltenham hill to overdue fame in

the Gold Cup last March. At the time, it was difficult iu jell who was more beninsed by all the attention, the seven vear-old Imperial Call or the 29-year-old O'Dwyer, the forexperience to succeed in the



O'Dwyer is riding his luck after last season's Gold Cup success on Imperial Cali

to wonder whether he would ever catch up with the big

The road to the winner's enclosure at Cheltenham took a strange series of twists: Thurles racing off when Richard Dunwoody was due to ride imperial Call. Dunwoody's choice of Flashing Steel for the Hennessy at Leopardstown, Charile Swan being retained by Aidan O'Brien in the same race and Fergie Sutherland, the trainchoice. With the race at his mercy, Imperial Call clouted the last and O'Dwyer made a terrible meal of staying on

"I did everything in my power to wrestle him to the ground," he recalls. "But I didn't succeed, thanks be to God. Needless to say, when I got back to the weighing room Charlie reminded me he was already booked for the ride in the Gold Cup. I said no problem'. I was just very glad to have a big day out." But on

SACRAMENT carries plenty of confidence as

he attempts to continue Michael Stoute's

magnificent run of success abroad in the Hong

Kong International Vase at Sha Tin tomorrow.

Although Count Chivas, runner-up to Saintly in the Melbourne Cup, is likely to be sent off favourite in the 14-mile race, Stoute's five-year-

old looked in peak condition as he completed

his preparation yesterday.

"He's raring to go," Gary Stevens, the leading American jockey, said after riding

Sacrament in a workout over half a mile

yesterday. The Shirley Helghts horse, winner of

a group two race at Deauville before landing

the September Stakes at Kempton, appeared to

be in magnificent physical shape — unlike some

horses who have travelled here for the rich

the Goat Grill just outside Dublin, Sutherland changed his mind and offered O'Dwyer the ride.

History does not record how much persuasion took place that night, but as soon as the decision was made, Sutherland found O'Dwyer's mobile phone in his hand with Swan's number ringing. Old friends and golfing partners maybe, but sentiment was not about to part O'Dwyer from his big break.

The partnership is renewed

Sacrament to flower in Vase

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT, IN HONG KONG

debut in the MMI Stockbrohas put on weight, is stronger and has more experience," O'Dwyer said. There is no

reason why he should not win another one or two Gold Cups. I can't see anything at the moment that can beat Since · Cheltenham, O'Dwyer has joined the ranks

of commuters across the Irish Sea, hitherto the preserve of champions like Dunwoody. vell, Windsor and Hereford, then home in time for dinner last night with his wife and two children on the Curragh. One race has not made him a better jockey, just mened doors.

"A year ago, if my agent had rung up Martin Pipe or someone, they would have said. "Who the hell is Conor O'Dwyer?' I don't think there is a lot of difference in the way I'm riding from five years ago. I'm riding better borses, which gives you more confiwas working too hard to win."

t is typical of O'Dwyer's modest approach that he initially only met Bailey An hour later, he emerged from the Carlton Towers hatel as first jockey to one of the most powerful stables in the land. "It was a doddle," Bailey said. "He is very quiet on his horses and is a charming man." The praise is recipro-

brilliantly," O'Dwyer said. "I'm still getting to know the set-up and the owners, but Mr Bailey is very fair. He doesn't make me traipse round the countryside unnecessarily and I'm riding some nice

After years of shadowing others, O'Dwyer is enjoying his time in the sun. "Jockeys don't always get what they much to do with it," he said. But there is a feeling that O'Dwyer is getting exactly

WOLVERHAMPTON

1,05 Desert Zone, 1,40 Fit For The Job. 2.15 Light Boit. 2.45 Chewit. 3.20 Key To My Heart. 3.55 Opera Buff. 4.25 Barrel Of Hope. 4.55 Double-O.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 Clm Born Born. 3.20 DECORATED HERO (nap). 4.55 Double-O.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.05 HOLIDAY INN GARDEN COURT WOLVERFLAMPTON HANDICAP

(Div I: £2,850: 1m 11 79yd) (13 runners)

(Div I: 2-Y-0: £2,965: 61) (9)

2.15 RADCLIFFE FAMILY & FRIENDS SELLING STAKES (2-Y-0: £3,566: 77) (11)

301 ANALES (2-1-01: ES, DOC. 1) (11)
302 OBSS. CHASETOWN FLYER 8 M Houser 8-11...
303 OBSS. CHASETOWN FLYER 8 M Holinshad 8-11...
303 OBSS. CHASETOWN FLYER 8 M Holinshad 8-11...
304 2028 HALLMARS 11 A Heann 8-11...
305 3402 SENATE SHANES 8 W Main 8-11...
306 OS SHATE SHANES 8 W Main 8-11...
307 ODC T-M-T EXPRESS 37 E Alban 8-11...
308 GBSS. COUL GREY 15 JJ O THICH 10-6...
310 OGS42 LIGHTIMIC SOLT 7 (8F) M Johnston 8-6...
311 OGS0 PATRICA PARK 19 W Holph 8-1...
312 Lightimin Palk 4-1 Socas Sewers S-1 Rai-Pal Cool Sime 1 7-2 Lightneing Bolf, 4-1 Sensie Serrigs, 5-1 Bail-Pet, Cool Grey, 6-1 Bestalling, 7-1 Claustitus Payer 19-1 Countiess Times, 12-1 others

2.45 TOTE MOBILE TERMINAL

405 (4) 1801 CRETAN OFT SE (R.C.F.S) N Librorium 5-9-9
10 McLaughte 91
488 (8) 2900 MR BERGERAC 32 (C.F.O.S) 8 Pating 5-9-8. T Symbo
487 (1) BLE SAL GRAMATE 67 (C.D.E.S) 5 Bovroup 5-9-7. D McLaughte
489 (8) 5555 CADCARDERAC 12 (C.F.C.S) Mr. L Sabbs 6-9-6. Whitworth
490 (8) 5555 CADCARDERAC 12 (C.F.C.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 12 (C.F.C.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 12 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 13 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 13 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 13 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 14 (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARDERAC 15 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CADCARD 15 (C.F.C.S.S) Mr. Bell 4-9-4. (Figure 5-9-6) CAD

FORM FOCUS

3.20 BASS WULFRUN STAKES (Listed race: £31,898; 1m 11 79yd) (13)

503 (12) 5512 KEY TO MY HEART 64 (F.G.S) MISS S HAR 6-9-1 503 (12) 5512 KEY TO MY HEART 64 (F.6.5) Mes S Kar 6-91
504 (1) 3404 ROYAL PHEDSOPHER 25 (G.5) J HEL 4-9-1 D Holland 82
505 (5) 2634 CELESTIAL KEY 35 (F.6) M. Individual 6-9-13 D Micheston 6-9-13 F. Individual 6-9-14 (6) 1404 MARALINGA 68 (F.6) Ledy Hente: 4-2-13... D O Streen 82
506 (7) 4104 MARALINGA 68 (F.6) Ledy Hente: 4-2-13... D O Streen 82
507 (7) 4109 PRINCE OF ANDROIS 104 (CD.F.6.5) C Wall 6-9-13
J Read 88

I-8 December Hero, 7-2 Prince Of Ambos, 5-1 Não, 7-1 Key To My Heart, 12-1 Ton Marring, 14-1 Celesial Key, Royal Philosopher, 16-1 others

FORM FOCUS

DECORATED HERO 1 % 2nd of 10 to River Bay at group it! From Perth at Saint-Cloud (1m., very soft) with ROYAL PHILOSOPHER 4% 3nd. KEY TO MY HEART 412nd of 4 to Busy Fight in Issael race at Newmented (1m dt., good) to firm. CELESTIAL KEY head and 1 ½! 2nd of 6 to Difficiant in conditions race at Doncester (7f., good). NUJO 1 ½! 2nd of 8 to All-Royal in a Bissael race at Newmented (1m, good) with CELESTIAL KEY short-head and 2½! 4th. PRINCE OF ANDROYS best Don 100 1 ¼! in an 8-numer conditions area at Chester (1m 2) 75/cd. good to firm) with RESEL COUNTY (2th bester of) tailed off last. GENERAL ACADEMY 131 3nd of 6 to Dering Flame in its conditions race at Redom (7f., good to firm). THAI MORNING beat Night Wink, 2½! In a 12-number conditions race at Particles (7f., good to firm). THAI MORNING beat Night Wink, 2½! In a 12-number conditions race at Particles (7f., good to firm). THAI MORNING beat Night Wink, 2½! In a 12-number conditions race at Particles (7f., good to firm). THAI MORNING beat Night Wink, 2½! In a 12-number conditions race at Particles (7f., good to firm). THAI MORNING beat Night Wink, 2½! In a 12-number conditions race at Particles (7f., good to firm).

3.55 GAL COMMUNICATIONS HANDICAP

602 4244 PRINCE DARCOS 100 (D.F.G.) Misray Smith 5-9-2 8 Dottleto 1 1300 FAR AMEAD 28 (D.F.G.5) Light 4-9-5 R. Lappan 1 1 603 4320 55A WICTOR 28 (F.G.) Light 4-9-5 D. R. Lappan 1 604 4320 55A WICTOR 28 (F.G.) Light 4-9-5 D. R. Lappan 1 605 4320 55A WICTOR 12 (F.G.) Light 4-9-5 D. R. Lappan 1 605 5227 67EEBESPAN 12 (2015) R Hoffmished 5-9-4 Flynch (3) 1 605 5227 67EEBESPAN 12 (2015) W Hord 4-9-4 Darre 0 7Meth 7 607 5130 PREMIER DARCE 131 (2015) B Levellyn 4-9-2 M. Robert 9 608 3300 BACKYRW 8 (CD.S) B Levellyn 4-9-2 M. Robert 9 609 2035 TROURADOLIN 50NB 39 (CD.S) W Hord 4-9-1 P. McCabe (3) 8 610 0102 REMOWN 39 (D.F.S) Lord Hurtangton 4-9-1 D. Hoffman 5 611 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L Monthly Half 5-9 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L MONTHLY HALF 5-1 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L MONTHLY HALF 5-1 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L MONTHLY HALF 5-1 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 36 (CD.B.F.C.S.) L MONTHLY HALF 5-1 500 514 1816 G.OW FIRMIN 37 51 514 1816 G.OW FIRM 801 3058 OPERA BUFF 18 (CD.F.B.B) Miss 9 Katimay 5-10-1

4.25 HOLIDAY INN GARDEN COURT

(Div II: £2,835: 1m 1(79yd) (13)

-1 Marndata, 6-1 Barrol Ol Hope, Angel Face, 7-1 Tassus Ol Lies, 8-1 Shinik 1822, 16-1 Termoung, Yaoman Clindr, 17-1 others.

4.55 BIRMINGHAM MAIDEN STAKES 008 DOUBLE-0 19 W James 9-0 Sanders 8
FRONT VERW B Llowellyn 9-0 ACIA's 1
045 HEVER GOLF DANCER 145 T Haughton 9-0 D Holland 9
00 JAY-0-98-T-WO 19 N Whitalez 9-0 A Guilland 3
0 PET EXPRESS 170 P Hoclard 9-0 P Geode (7) 4
0540 VRLAGE PUB 15 (8) K Cannaughtm-Brown 9-0 JRed 2
3 GAYNNA 157 M Tomplates 8-9 F Lynch (8) 7

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Imperial Call is ready for action

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

IMPERIAL CALL, the Chel- Aintree last year on his only tenham Gold Cup winner, and the two-mile champion chaser, Klairon Davis, meet in a fascinating clash for the MMI Stockbrokers Chase at Punchestown today.

The trip of 21 miles is not ideal for either horse but should provide a useful guide to their respective merits at this stage of the season. Fergie Sutherland reports

that Imperial Call is in good shape for his first race since Cheltenham in March. "He has never been better in

his life," Sutherland said yesterday. "He has strengthened up since last season, put on condition and I am very happy with his level of In contrast, Klairon Davis

has had a run, but it hardly offered encouragement with the vastly interior Fiftysevenchannels scrambling home first in a three-horse race at

Leopardstown. The Arthur Moore-trained gelding will strip much fitter today but was well beaten at

(£22,750: 2m 4l) (6 runners)

. U5 m m i stockbrokens punchestown chase

21F-11 REPERAL CALL 268 (6.5) (Lessian Parson) F Subintant 7-12-8 E O'Deger 21F-11 REPERAL CALL 268 (6.5) (Clones) A L T Moore 7-12-9 F Voorte 121-944 MERRY GALE 14 (6.5) (F Santey) J T R Director 8-12-9 J P Broader 121-944 MERRY GALE 14 (6.5) (F Santey) J T R Director 8-12-9 T P Treacy F1355 LOVE THE LORD 13 (6.5) (6.5) (6.5) (6.5) (7.5) (

SECTIONS. 4-7 Imperial Call, 9-4 Kistron Davis, 11-2 Many Gale, 8-1 Rhyel Mountarousse, 16-1 Lane-The Land 25-1 Tame For A Plan.

1985: METHY GALE 7-12-6 Ti Dunnecky (6-4 law) E O'Goody 7 dan

completed outing at 2's miles. Interestingly, both Klairon Davis and Imperial Call fell in

this race last year. Francis Woods, the jockey of Klairon Davis, said yesterday: The distance will probably favour Imperial Call better than my horse, but he battles so well. I will drop him in and

take my time in the race." This time last year Merry Gale looked a major Gold Cup contender when winning this race but injury put a stop to his good run. His efforts this season have been moderate, two fourth placings at Clonmel and Naas suggesting that he is best watched for the

The three other runners look outclassed and, although the trip is short of his best, the confidence behind Imperial

Call is infectious. Klairon Davis has proved to be a better horse in the spring but should still present the biggest challenge to Fergie Sutherland's young chara-

international races.

CXCCO'
Going: good:
12.50 2m 2! hole) 1, Burlington Sam (D
Burons, 11-4): 2, Time Leader (7-4 tim): 2,
Korey's Tychron (B-1), 7 (an 14), 34; 4
Hobbs Tolk: 23 10; 21 50; 2), 40 DF. 22.70
CSF '27.98

1.20 (2m 2' ch): 1, Castlecoverer (Ar A
Holdsworth, 12-1): 2, The Whole Hog (14-1);
9, Fernatch, (9-2) ...Ind Frezi 5-2 nov 11 non.
10, 31 R Frest, Tolk: 21-40; 32.10, 27.50,
12-70. DF. 27.270 Tifts: (29-40 CSF-C149.41, Tittests: 27.99 15 No bid.
1.50 (2m 2) ch): 1, Lincida (C Llevellyn, 11-1);
2, Lively Kright (7-2); 2, Wid Wast Wind (9-1);
Squire SR' 4-5 law 7 nor. MR Arthey House,
11, 101. M Taiston-Davies. Tota 218.40;
23.90; 15 0, 21.30 DF '218 40 Titte '255.00.
CSF: 247 54.
2.20 (2m 7: 110),d ch): 1, Bailines Boy (A
Megunn, 5-2 law): 2, Rocity Park (14-1); 3,
Red Perado (9-1): 11 nor 34; 3, 0 Nicholson.
Tota: (33.90; † 19.0, 25.50; E1.80 DF:
211.430, This 210.5 60, CSF (26.22). Wheat

28 10 Trio. 22.80. CSF- 23.46.
3.20 (27.27 holls) 1, Dornfrien's Dream (G. Supple, 14-1); 2, Jeffenes (B.5 fav); 3, Estibley Buoy (14-1); 10 no. NR The Stack Monte, 2, 21. M Pipe. Total 21450, 52.60.
51.20, 63.40. DF- 220.0 Trior 214570.
527; (23.10. Total 2251.81
Placeport 578.40. Guandpot 522.10.

Market Rasen

This \$5.30. CSP \$71.33 8.30 (2m 1f 170)of flat succij 1, The Ludy Caphan (K Gaule, 8-1); 2. Sprig Musiin (11-2); 3, Poppy's Decam (9-4 law) 9 ism 31, 11-4 D Thom. Tote \$11.40, \$2.90, \$2.90, \$1.00 DF; \$29.80. The \$48.20 CSF \$57.17 Placepot: \$16.60. Hereford

Singspiel, been second in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe with Pilsudski, sent out the winner and runner-up in the Breeders' Cun Turf and saddled Singspiel to win the Japan Cup.
With Da Hoss, the Michael Dickinson

Since the beginning of September, Stoute has

won a group one race in Germany with Pil-sudski, landed the Canadian International with

trained winner of the Breeders' Cup Mile, having suffered a troubled preparation, First Island, the Geoff Wragg-trained winner of the

Sussex Stakes, appeals in the International Cup over nine furiorigs. However, the best value could be available about Iktamal, the Haydock Park Sprint Cup winner, when Ed Dunlop's runner lines up for the seven-furlong International Bowl. The locals expect him to be sent off at 10-1 or longer.

258 N. CSP (14: N. 1. 14: N. 1. 14: N. 1. 14: N. 1. 14: N. 14: N. 14: N. 14: N. 14: N. 15: N.

2.10 (2m 8 ch 1 Marines Mirror Mr M Rinell, 11-4), 2. Feel The Power (Evers Iard, 3, Zistoon (8-1) 13 ran, NP; Legal Artist, 10, 101. N. Twisson-Daves Tote: £4 00; £1 50, £1.50, £1.50, DP; £2.50 Tao £5.40, CsF-£5.61

2.40 (2m 1) list race; 1, Dom Bellamo II. Subsen, 6-1; 2, Sunday Versine (6-2 lov); 3, Bozo (50-1), ISrain, MR Calendos 314 list N Version-Danes, Tota: 55 70; £1 40, £1 20, £20 50 DF: £19 80 Teo. £166 20. CSF. 122 11.

WETHERBY THUNDERER

12.40 Barton Ward. 1.10 Lansborough. 1.40 Thornton Gate. 2.10 The Last Fling. 2.40 Island Chief. 3.15 Spring Gale.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.40 THORP ARCH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,178: 2m 7f) (15 runners)

23,178: 2m 77) (15 runners)

1 93-1 SHARE DOTTORS SC (6) 1 Exterly 5-11-0

2 71-5 BARTON WARD 29 (6) 5 Protection 5-11-0

3 83-2 BEN CRUACHAN 26 (63 J Jefferson 6-11-0

4 SOLON 4 M Messon 5-11-0

5 CARC PRINCE 9007 J J Dress 6-11-0

6 22-4 CALLERISE DAM 3 N Trechester 5-11-0

6 22-4 CALLERISE DAM 3 N Trechester 5-11-0

8 3 E.Y'S HARBOUR 19 O Stemword 5-11-0

10 -307 LEFTON 4 (6) J Cache 5-11-0

10 -307 LEFTON 4 (6) J Cache 5-11-0

11 196 PLONISTON 395 (6) J Jefferson 6-11-0

12 6 STAR MASTER 19 L Lingo 5-11-0

13 95 THE ALANO 200 D FORDS 5-11-0

14 (6) CARCHOSTON 29 (5) N Trinfer 7-11-0

15 09-0 PHARBABELING 187 No.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

15 180-0 PHARBABELING 187 No.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

2 STAR DESCRIPTION 18 J No.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

2 STAR DESCRIPTION 18 J No.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

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2 STAR DESCRIPTION 18 J NO.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

2 STAR DESCRIPTION 18 J NO.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

2 STAR DESCRIPTION 18 J NO.5 N Revoley 5-10-9

1.10 DICK WARDEN NOVICES CHASE

(£4,107: 2m 4l 110yd) (9) 2-1. CHI THE LIGHT (17) (27)

1-115 SABENT DASHING 14 (D. SEF, 6.5) T Existely 5-11-10 R Country

1-115 SABENT DASHING 14 (D. SEF, 6.5) T Existely 5-11-10 R Country

2-115 ASEAN 380 (6.5) J Fizgurald 8-11-0 A Contract

3-12 CATTLY HANG 227 (5.) Junip 6-11-0 A Contract

5-14 CALISSONOLUS 8 (6-6.5) 6 Returns 6-11-0 B Handing

7-14 NOT DEC 4 (6-6.5) P Resument 6-11-0 B Handing

9 COLUMN 1997 USENDOLUZ (5.) Juliason 6-11-0 A S Smith

9 000- SREERIC 257 (5) S Sed 6-11-0 K Johnson 6-4 Skupby Dacting. 5-2 Laustorough. 11-2 Asian, 6-1 Room Linstein. 10-1 Mile Dec. 12-1 Carry Hung. 20-7 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAMERS: M Tomptons, 3 witness from 9 runners, 23.3%, Mrs. M Reveley, 46 from 182, 28.2%, G Richards, 27 from 111, 24.3%, J Gillard, 4 from 18, 22.2%; 7 Excherby, 6 from 29, 20.7%; J Johnson, 14 from 74, 18.9%; J Frogressid, 15 from 93, 16.1%.
JOCKEYS: P Nivers, 43 witness from 167 rules, 25.7%; A Dobbin, 16 from 91, 16.9%, B cand, 10 from 65, 15.4%; F Lealey, 4 from 29, 13.0%, A Johnson, 8 from 45, 13.3%; M Branner, 3 from 29, 13.0%, J Cathaghan, 8 from 71, 11.3%.

CSP: FVIG.11 Interest vivos 2. 3.10 (Sm 11 110) of ch 1, Carichinon (N Manne-20-1); 2. Winnie Worder (14-1); 3. Market Gosson (10-1) Eugress Travel 2-1 ins tr. 1, 15-mit. NR: Oner The Wester 2, 1 1-1 Gosathead. Tota: E23-40; E3,00, E12-10, 55,00 OF 2216-80. They GSB 90 CSP: 2263-20. Tocast 52,750-44. lung and broken ribs in a fall from Bishops Castle at Hereford last month, hopes to return at Newton Abbot on December 16. "I was checked over by the doctor and everything is .40 ATS HANDICAP HURDLE

(23,867: 201) (11)

1 44FR NON VINTARE 7 (0.6.5) R Albox B-11-12

2 AGE JAZILAH 7 (0.6.5) R Albox B-11-12

3 111- PERRY A DAY 22F (0.6.5) Miss M Revelop B-11-10

3 111- PERRY A DAY 22F (0.6.5) Miss M Revelop B-11-10

4 44F THORNTON GRATE 14 (0.0.5) E.6.3 1 Excelerby 7-11-9 J. Challegham

5 3-34 KAITAK 15 (20.6) J Can 5-11-8

5 1-35 ELPHOOS 14 (0.0FF.5.5) M Harvarond 4-11-1

7 R BARTON

7 110- BLATTON 365 (0.0.FG) 6 Reclarate 4-11-1

8 64F-9 BRND SABE 21 (0.0.FS) 7 Storrey 5-10-13

8 64F-9 BRND SABE 21 (0.0.FS) 7 Storrey 5-10-13

9 64F-9 BRND SABE 21 (0.0.FS) 7 Storrey 5-10-6

10 23-0 DAWN MESSON 36 (0.0.F) 1 Excelley 4-10-2

A 6 Smith

11 32-5 FASSAN 25 M Harvarond 4-10-1

7-2 Pestry A Day 4-1 Kaitat, 5-1 Jacobs, 6-1 Non Virtuge, 7-1 Thornton Gara, 3-1 Basen, 10-1 others

2.10 EMMERDALE HANDICAP CHASE

4 02-8 DENVER BAY 21 (D.S.) J Gillard 9-10-13 _____ I. Aspect (3) 6 -94F JDE WHTTE 14 (D.F.S.) J Johnson 10-10-13 _____ A S Smith 6 -11U THE LAST FLOWS 22 (C.D.)BFFFG) Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 R Quest 11-4 Combinan Challenge, 3-1 All The Acos, 7-2 Wes Bloom, 9-2 The Last Pling. 6-1 Denner Bay, 7-1 Job While.

2.40 WHARFE HANDICAP CHASE

6 -3US STRONG DED. 7 (F.S.S.) F Murphy 8-10-8 7 211- ASTINES 217 (G.S.) J Fragerad 6-10-8 8 -243 ALTS ALER 7 (D.E.S.) Mrs M Reviely 9-10-4 9 4213 DARK (DAR 2 (D.F.S.) J Curts 10-10-3 10 /1F SLAND CHEF 378 (D.E.S.) P Beaution 7-10-0

nni 7-10-0

3.15 WALSHFORD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (\$3,105: 2m 4f 110yd) (15)

3, 105: 2m 4[1 10yd) (15)

1 30-1 SPRING SIALE 38 (S) 0 Sherwood 5-11-11 ... JA McCaraby
2 -12! ELA MATA 25 (D.F.6) Mrs. A Swintania 4-11-10 B Grinton (7)
3 1-31 HISHREATH 41 (F.6) Mrs. M Revoley 5-11-7 ... P Rivers
4 03-3 TAVE COVER 14 M Tomplers 5-11-2 ... A Dominia
5 80-00 SPRINZER 28 J Fragerial 4-11-0 ... W Divas
5 80-00 SPRINZER 28 J Fragerial 4-11-0 ... W Divas
5 87-5 MENSHAAR 26 L Longo 4-10-9 ... M Facilit
6 87-5 MENSHAAR 26 L Longo 4-10-9 ... M Facilit
7 P ANCHORETA 85 (D.F) D Borlers 4-10-6 ... H Exist
9 46-5 AURITE ALCE 15 J Fragerial 6-10-2 ... I Leathy (2)
9 44-4 HOTSPUR STREET 30 (D M W Exclarity 4-10-1 8 Harding
1 40-50 PATH 357 N Bracht 1-10-0 ... A S Smith
4 40-50 PATH 357 N Bracht 1-10-0 ... A S Smith
3 AS JOS LAGGER 14 M Hammond 5-10-0 ... D Bender
4 00-0 CORRIGH 30 S Bell 6-10-0 ... K Johnson
1 THE OTHER MANY 7 Miss L Subbil 6-10-0 ... R Supplie
1 Take Cover 5-1 Spring Sale, 6-1 Hosbesth, 7-1 by Mata Dout Funger Curls.

Dimmy Frost, who received a punctured 4-1 Take Cover, 5-1 Spring Gale, 5-1 Higgsbeath, 7-1 En Mata Doot Funger Curtis 8-1 Merchant, 10-1 Anchorena, 12-1 others. coming along nicely," he said.

10 4 12 mile

15.

- 1 Y FERRITE -

England's semi-final revenge Watch England's Henman take on Germany's Becker in the Compaq Grand Slam, from 1pm on Sky Sports 2. Another live and exclusive event on

GOVES BE OF SERVICE TENSION CONTROL SECURITY STREET SERVICE SE

Alan Lee meets an England captain who is earning the respect of his rivals

Hollioake earns A-plus for leadership

wisdom that England cricket captains must heed timehonoured conventions of dress, decorum and restraint, then prepare to disapprove of Adam Hollioake. If, however, there is thought to be merit in being combative, direct and unpretentious, and in winning matches with a strikingly united team, then the captain of England A is a man to be observed with admiration.

He was not at his best ers had marked their latest victory with some research into Sydney's nightlife and the captain was to the fore. He appeared late, with telltale eyes and instant apologies, wearing a back-to-front baseball cap on his head. It is fair to conclude that Gubby Allen, Peter May and other departed paragons would have shuddered at the sight.

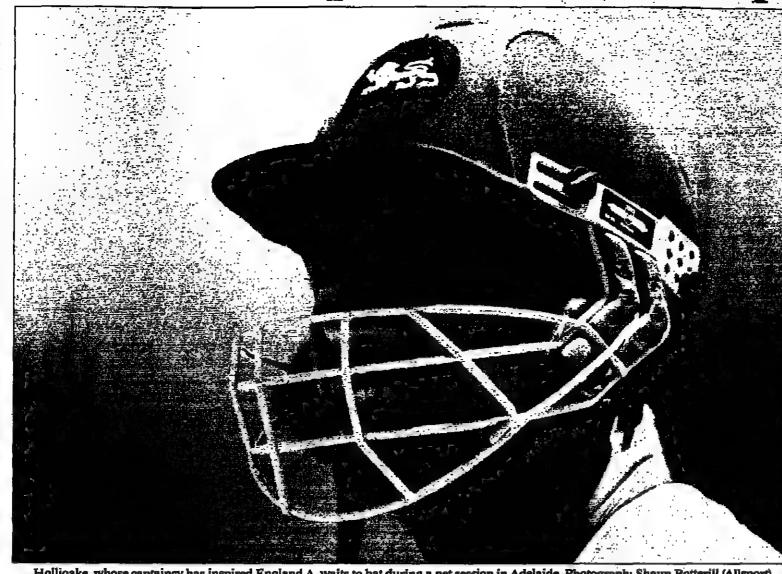
Yet if Hollioake was hungover, he showed no further sign of it, proceeding to speak with fluency and candour about the tour, his team and himself. As he once acquired something of a reputation for self-importance, it is worth saying that he gave the subjects in that order of

Had he but known it, a compliment had just been paid by Peter Such. At 32, with eight Tests, three counties and two previous A tours to his name, Such is half a generation ahead of most of this party. "The reason we have done well," he said, "is that everyone here works for the unit rather than for themselves. That isn't always the case on tour." Which reflected due credit on the captain.

He has created a team in his own image, which is to say noisy, gregarious, ambitious and aggressive. Some of these words are frowned upon within English cricket, but those inclined to do so should weigh the evidence of this A team's success and spirit. It has, perhaps, competed in an Australian way, but is that not what we have been seeking all

these years?
"On the first few bus rides I thought we had a really quiet bunch," Hollioake said. "A few of them have not been given enough chance to express themselves at their counies and I have just encouraged them to be themselves. I open myself up a lot to the guys so they know what I am thinking, and they respond to that."

They have, indeed, become irreverent enough to play a their revered coach. His shorts found their way up a flagpole years. An example of that is we are considering their options.



Hollioake, whose captaincy has inspired England A. waits to bat during a net session in Adelaide. Photograph: Shaun Botterill (Allsport)

Hollioake was once noted

for his temper and he does not

claim to have fully mellowed.

'i can be a volatile character,"

in Canberra and his training shoes were glued to the dressfloor. Gatting enjoyed the joke, as he has enjoyed the tour. "He tells me it's been easy, that he has just sat on his backside," Hollioake said, "but he has. given me my head, which can't have been easy for him, while always being there with

"I've kept teiling my boys to press the G-button, to gamble, to experiment. I tell them that, if it doesn't work, it's on my head. I have never had aspirations to captaincy, so I will try anything because I don't mind losing my job." There is a strong sense, though, that he

has begun to savour it. The good thing about my inexperience is that I came here without any preconceived ideas of what should happen on tour." he said. "I have been able to look at something and say that it's wrong, that we'll do it differently, without knowing if it's been done on every tour for the past 50 won't practice just for the sake

Another example is a relaxed attitude to social hours. "Players generally do what is best for them and sometimes you need an outlet," he said. After the third day in Adelaide, our worst of the tour, I felt I needed to go out and have a few drinks. The other lads all came, too, so we stuck together, talked it out as a team, then went out and won the game."

he said. "I used to go wild when I got out, but, after I had broken a few helmets and bats, I thought, 'What's the point? Sometimes I lose it. even now, but I don't get upset with my own players unless I think they aren't trying."

easily if they have a go at me on the field, "he said. "I know I have to be careful as captain and that I must set an example, but it is in my nature to be competitive. It's happened a

couple of times on tour."

This, some would say, is the Australian coming out in Hollioake, for he was born, 25 years ago, in the Victorian country town of Ballarat. It prepared him well for his

Somerset place Lee on stand-by

all-rounder, could return to play for Somerset next season cause of problems over the availability of Mushtaq Ahmed, the Pakistan jeg spinner, who had agreed a new threeyear contract with the club. The willingness of the Paki-

stan Cricket Board to compete in an international tournament in Sharjah, and other events, during the English season means that Somerset Peter Bowler, the new cap-tain, has been in touch with Lee, who scored more than 1,300 runs for the county in 1996, when Mushtaq was touring England with Pak-

There is a definite possibility that I will be back at Somerset next year." Lee said. David Boon, who will captain Durham next season, hit the sixtieth first-class century of his career yesterday to help to take Tasmania to 352 for

three on the opening day of their Sheffield Shield match against Victoria in Hobart. Yorkshire have confirmed their intention to give memmove from Headingley to a new site at Wakefield, although the club revealed, in a reply to the Action Group questioning the move, that 70

per cent of members who have written to the club are

supportive of the switch to

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Duinn Cup: Elonians v Chigwellians; Lancing v West-numsters: Premiter ditentors: Wildens v Reptomans.

new headquarters.

laugh at us," he said. "I knew that would happen. Once we began to win, we turned it against them on the field, telling some of their sides they weren't so hot. They didn't like it at the time, but I get the impression they have come to respect us."

all wanted to knock us, to

The nationality issue, as it affects Hollioake, White and Jason Gallian, is raised regularly here. "It's nonsense, but it doesn't worry me." Hollioake said. "I take it as a compliment that they want to claim me, but Craig and Jason get really upset about it. All that annoys me is when it gets more publicity than the team

Hollicake is rightly proud of tour record that read six wins, one dominant draw and only one defeat going into the penultimate match today. "I like to get them fired up for every single game. he said, "but I'm running out of things to say now." This was the one thing about him that I found difficult to believe.

Lara fails again as **Australia** canter to victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF.

BRIAN LARA, disciplined for misconduct on Wednesday. was again in poor form yesterday as Australia beat West indies by five wickets before a crowd of 42,442 in the opening World Series one day international in Melbourne.

Lara fell to Tom Moody for bowled out for 172, Australia overhauling that total with eight balls to spare to end a sequence of six successive oneday defeats. Greg Blewett made an un-beaten 57 from 90 balls to steer

Australia home, adding 70 from 85 balls in a fifth-wicket partnership with Stuart Law. Lara looked completely out of touch during his brief stay, which ended when he chipped a simple catch to Shane Warne at mid-wicket. Clive Lloyd, the West Indies. manager, has apologised for Lara's behav-iour on Tuesday, when he told Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, that Ian Healy was unwelcome in the visitors'

dressing room. The crowd were in an unforgiving mood, however, jeering Lara as he walked to the middle. It was left to Shivnarine Chanderpaul, another left-hander, to hold the innings together. He made a gritty 54 despite the handicap of a groin injury, which forced him to use a runner for most of his innings.

. Pakistan, who arrive in Australia later this month, are the other team competing in the World Series tournament.

WEST MINES Total (49.2 overs) 172
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-98, 3-84, 4-73, 5-81, 6-120, 7-136, 8-180, 8-183.

AUSTRALIA*

5-100. BOWLENG: AMORDINE 10-\$-19-0; Wallet 9-0-Man of the maker G.S. Brewell. Umpires' P Perfor and S.G. Plandell.

Pakistan openers construct platform for success

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN, put firmly in control by an opening partnership of 177 between Saeed Anwar (91) and Zahoor Elahi (86), beat New Zealand by 46 runs in the second one-day international, in Sialkot yesterday, to clinch the series. They lead 2-0 with the final maich to come in Karachi

During the New Zealand innings, play was suspended for ten minutes after the Pakistan players walked off the field in protest over the behaviour of a section of the 20 000 crowd who were throwing bottles onto the

pleased Lee Germon, the New Zealand captain, because it came at a stage when Stephen Fleming was making a bold attempt to get his side up with the required run rate.

Pakistan piled up 277 for nine in their allotted 47 overs. Ijaz Ahmed delighting his home crowd with a daring 59. while New Zealand were dismissed for 231, despite Fleming's brave innings of 85, which included ten fours. A third-wicket partnership of 118 between Fleming and Parore, who made 37, rallied New Zealand after the first two wickets had fallen for SEVER CLERK.

Once Fleming was out, with the score at 146, the Pakistan bowiers always had the upper

Extras (fb 8, w 14, nb 2) Total (9 wids, 47 overs) FALL OF WICKETS: 1-177, 2-229, 3-240, 4-247, 5-882, 5-280, 7-251, 8-250, 9-271. BOWLING: Dout 8-1-60-0; Kennedy 3-0-24-0; Cetrus 8-1-35-1, Vaughan 9-1-88-1, Hents 10-0-42-5; Aste 9-0-53-1.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-7, 3-125, 4-148, 5-170, 6-190, 7-195, 6-213, 6-218. BOWLING: Western Alexanz 8 1-0-43-3; Wager Younis 6-0-32-2; Baglein Mushtan 8-0-54-2; Mushtan Ahmed 10-0-42-0; Brinkled Annold 7-0-0-2; Sahr Malik 2-6-0-8-1; Ijaz Ahmed 0.1-0-0-0 Man of the waters Seem! Aware.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FROM THE SECOND FROM THE SE PORTNERN COUNTES BAST LEAGUE Premier division: Amstrone Wellare v North Femby, Amdid v Pictering; Belger Town v Sheffleid: Bogg Town v Denatoy; Histam v Ossett Albron; Melitay MW v Glasshoughton Wellare; Ossett Town Liversedge Pontetract Cols v Thackfey; Ashteld v Haffleid Main, Selby v Huckmall.

K-ck-ati 3 0 unless stated " denotes all-licket FA Carting Premierable (1) Arsenal v Derby (2) Chelsea v Everion (3) Coventry v Totterman

Nationwide League First division

Nationwide Leegue
Finit division

'9) Barrislav v Southend

(10) Birmingham v Grimsby
(11) Charition v Swindon ...

'12) Crystal Palace v Ondord Utd ...

'13) Huddersheld v Normich

(14) Ipswich v Wolverhampton

(15) Manchester City v Bradford ...

'16) Oldham v Queens Park Rangers ...

'17) Reading v Port Vale

(18) Stoke v Trannere ...

P W D L F A Ple

Botton ...

21 11 8 2 43 26 41

Sweffield Utd v Portspriouth

(19) Stoke v Trannere ...

P W D L F A Ple

Botton ...

21 11 8 2 43 26 43

Sweffield Utd 20 10 6 4 37 20 38

Sambley ...

20 9 7 4 44 20 3

Trannere 21 9 5 7 31 24 32

Wickberhippin 20 9 5 6 20 21 3

Wortschill ...

Wortwerhippin 20 9 5 6 20 21 3

Wortschill ...

Samble ...

19 7 6 6 23 21 3

Samble ...

21 9 2 10 32 26 2

School ...

21 9 2 10 32 26 2

School ...

21 9 2 10 32 26 2

School ...

21 9 2 10 32 26 2

Reading ...

21 7 5 9 25 32 2

Reading ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

21 6 7 8 22 32

Fed Vale ...

22 Fed Vale ...

23 5 9 6 36 31

FA Cup Second round (27) Barnet v Wycombe (20) Blackpool v Hednesford Encial City v St Albans ... Huted v Federalds

 Hull v Crewe
 Leyton Crest v Stevenage
 Lutor, v Boretram Wood
 Mansfield v Stocport

 Notic County v Rochdale 30) Preston v York 31) * Sudbury Town v Brentford

(at Colchester United FC) . (28) "Walsall v Burnley (---) Walford v Ashford . (25) Wrewham v Scunthorpe . . . PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEA-GUE: Cladysouddin v Bud-lo Trisile; Core v Lossemouth, Force Mechanics v Rathes, Fracerbugh v Keth, Nauri County v (33) Kettering v Stough
(34) Kiddemmister v Dover
(—) Morecambe v Hayes
(—) Northwich v Fambordugh
(35) Southport v Bromsgrove
(36) Stalybridge v Halifex
(—) Tetlord v Rushden & Darmonds
(37) Weiling v Batth Bell's Scottish League Premier division

First division (43) Arrine v Ciydebank (44) Dundee v Fallurk (45) East File v Partick (46) Greenock Morton v St Johnstone (47) Stitring v St Mirran Second Qvision Third division

(49) Ross County v Montrolle Tennents Scottish Cup First round (--) Afloa v Hamck (--) Eigin v Whitehill W (--) Huntly v Cycle

(--) Heretord v Miliwali . . (—) Altrincham v Macclestield .

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Baldock v Worcaster City Chelmstord v Cambingo City Chelmstord v Cambingo City Chelmstord v Cambingo City Chelmstore and Northfleet. Dorchester v Atherstone. Gloucester v Burton, Gresley v Stingbourne. King's Linn v Nureator Merthyr v Crawley. Newport AFC v Halasowert Micland division: Biston v Rothwelt: Docley Town v VS Rugby. Evesham v Garntham RC Warwick v Corby. Raunds T v Bischon, Reddigth v Shegshed D. Stefford v Pinget R: Shoundige v Bedworth Sutton Coldried Town v Hindeley Town, Tammorth v Moor Green Southern division: Grenesster Town v Weymouth: Clevedion v Enth and Selvedare Dartland v Bashley Farsham v Budonpfarm Town, Fister London v Newport loff, Free T v Forest Green; Havant v Margatt; Tonbordge Angels v Troubindge Waterboylle v Wilney; Yate v Weston-super-More Idishop s Stortland v Carshatton, Chentey v Yeard. (-) Altrincham v Macclestield . . .

ICIS LEAGUE. Premier division: Bishop s Stamford v Carshatton, Cherbary v Yeovid. Dutwich v Ayleshury, Grays v Ordord Cdy; Hendon v Stames: Hospindge v Hatchin, Purfect v Harnow (7.30) Seiton United v Degenham and Rest Yeading v Kingatonian. First dension: Abragdon Town v Carlwey Islamd, Aldershot Town v Malden-head United, Barton Rovers v Molecey. Billencay v Berkhamsted, Bognor Regs v Tooting and Matcham. Chusman v Croydon. Hampton v Thame, Leyton Permant v Worthing: Unbridge v Basinostoke. Hampton v Thame, Leytan Perment v Worthwig Ubbridge v Basingstoke, Whytelede v Markow Second divisions Checkunit v Brachnell: Edgware v Motropolitan Police Egham v Wivershoo H Hembelland v Dorking Horstram v Craitors St. Peter, Hungerlood v Coller Row and Romford Leatherhead v Worthley Leighton Town v Baking: Tatury v Bodford 1, Ware v Windoor and Econ, Witham v Banslead. Third dilvision: Brantnee v Flackwell Health, Clapton v Hemford, Econmand Ewell y Waddstone, Hardrey v Trang, Homehurch v Wingsto and Frischley; Kingsbury v East Pharmote, Northwood v Camberlay Southall v Leyee. Kingsbury v East Prumoro Naturalog v Camberlay Southal v Levez.
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division: Deny v Dundaria (7:30); Home Farm v Fun Harps (7:30) WINSTONLEAD WENT LEAGUE Final division: Counthian v Beckentarn, Deal v Turbridge Wells Folkestone Innota v Crockerhalt Hytho v Wootwech.

masteriu. Gusseley v Widom Leek v Lamaster, Mannie v Hyde, Rumoom v Barrow First divisions. Afriedro III v Worksop Braditord Ph. Ave v Warnington: Droyloden v Curcon Achnon; Farsley Celib v Congletom; Limooli United v Floton Matiock Town v Netherfald, Raditifie v Eastwood Town: Stocksbridge PS v Leeph. Whitely Bay v Great Harwood: Workington v Astron United Simplification of Astron United Simplification of Astron United Simplification of Astron United Gentoman v Portadown; Glemanon v Limbed Gentoman v Portadown; Glemanon v Limbed Gentoman v Colerano. Pint division: Baylcare v Bangor; Ballymena v Newwy: Limie v Camick, Omagin v Distiery
LEAGUE OF WALES: Casmarfon v Birton Fenty, Carmarthen Town v Bengor Chy, Connarts Quay v Cemaes Bay Conney v Beng (2 30); First Town v Portimatiog Holywolf v Cambrian.

Berry (2.30); First Town v Portsmacog Holywolf v Cumbers, Newtown v Prity, Ton Perite v Welshpool SCREMPK Officer LARGUE Promise division: Birstof Manor Farm v Paubon R Chippenham v Chard; Odd Dlown v Backwelt Westbury v Tompsjon Comminer Commine

Ornoda v Croydon Watham Abbey v Harefaid v Croydon Watham Abbey v Harefaid SOUTH WOLANDS LEAGUE O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers premier division Cup: Harpendon v Bedland Umjett SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE First division: Ariseria v West Ham (11 0) Charton v Norwich (11 0), Miliwaii v Carribridge Uid (11 0); Portroviuth v Chelsea (11 0), Queons Park Rangers v Ioswich (10 45) Southend Uid v Gilvegnam (11 0); Tothamham v Leyton Onent (11 0); Wattord v Riffram (11 0) Bournemouth v Oxford Uid (11 0) Borntond v Luton (11 0); Brighton v Totterham (11 0); Bristol City v Southampton (11 0) Bristol Rovers v Colchester Uid (12 0) Crystal Palaco v Reading (11 0) Wycombe v Wimbledon (11 0).

(11.0). HOSLEGH INSLETANCE MITDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Covernty Spirot. Vivorestere; Handrehan Turbers v Kenterouth Kings Heath v Highgate Massey Ferguson / Richmond Smitts, Shrifey Bisston Community College President's Cup: Second round: Averson v Yardley
HELLENG LEAGUE: Premier division: Abmotion United v Swinton Supermenne. Tuffley v Shortwood

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Same first division.
Old Islemorthams v Old Westhamians; Chartsey CS v Old Tithnians, Old Danes v Old Sustantians.
FEDERATION BREWENT MORTHERN LEAGUE: Flest division: Crook v Easington: Gusborough v Durston Federation, Murton v Durtam HTM Newcasto v Concert. Seatram Red Star v Bedfington Vamers; Shidon v Billingham, Stockor v South Shelds, Whicherin v Morpedh Whiton V Chuster-le-Street.
NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton Colleges v Nantwerh Burschungh v Michard Vid Boys Glossop North End v Chidarce; Mane Road it Boote Recognistic Vows: Darbert v Vauchal GM.
BSSEX SCHIOR LEAGUE: Promier division: Bowers v Hullandige Sports Basil-don't v Burstam Remblera, Concord v Southerd Manor: Great Watering v Eton Manor Sawbrudgeworth v Sotton Walden, Stansted v Brentwood Tuttley v Shortwood OLD BOY'S LEAGLIE: Same little daw

BANKS BYEWERY LEAGUE Premier division: Biocaron S v Makem T: Breday Hb T v Wowerhampton United, Dartaston v Hill Top R Etingshall Hill Stafford T. Gornal Res. v Westfords Stoupont S v Wokerhampton C. Tindale v Chadley Town; Walsall Wood / Lye Town; Wadnesheld v Luttler T. SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: FINE

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Fire christon: Carchalom / Cid Actonomic, Couch Edit Variones, v. Nativest Bank, Norsemen v. Old Editarminans Polymerinia v. Esst Earnel CG.
SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior first division: Hale End v. Southgate County, Parkfield v. St. Mary Cabings: Ulysse v. Old Frotheaus Villan v. Albaman.
EWSON EXSTERN COUNTES LEAGUE. Premier division: Bury Town v. Halstead County in Madicial U. Falvenham v. Das Feloritons P. and T. v. Normaniel Gorieston v. March Harston and Parkeston v. Lawestin Schart. V. Great Yarmouth Fighner v. Walton; Worthows v. Stormaniat. Wishors v. Woodann v. Scotaury V. Woodannings.

Secony
JEWSON WESSEK LEAGUE First division: Scurremart: y Cosses Sports.
Browenhurst v Easterght Downson v BAT
East Cosses v Thatbarn Petersteid v
Portsmouth Remark (Seports Whichards own Ryde Sports v Gosports Whichards own Bareston Heath
UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premare division: Bloaton v
Besterough Cogenhos v Bourse.
Kempation v Holdersch Newport Pagnet v
Merteus Barbouther, St Neoth v Standord v
Eyesburg v Long Suchey Standord v
Eyesburg, S and L Corby Standord v
Eyesburg, S and L Corby Standord v
Eyesburg, S and L Corby V Wooden:
Webnigborough v Fulton
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First
division: Apurde: v Peaushaven and Telscombo. Hassoons v Hallisham.
Langvey Scorts v Oarvood, Male Oak v
Horsham VMCA, Portset v Southern.
Langvey Scorts v Oarvood, Male Oak v
Horsham V Peggant v Rungmer Wick v
Whitehealt V Properties ALLIANCE Bernett
v Pelgant V Crestown v Oddury U.
Pershore I v Halssowen H, Roccater v
Hindeley Artibele Rushall O v Krypersley v
Sandwer v Southal T Staperfull v
Bridgrapht Systower St M. Willenhall v
Blossech Town

Etonians v Chopeetians; Lancing v Westrensters Premier dheators Wildeans v
Restorians.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless
stated; English Schools Fuji Film Trophy;
Fourth round: Covenity v Aston; Darby v
South Nots, East Riching v Chestartield;
Liverpool v Bishop Auckland (12.0), Ipswich
v MacHerts (12.0), Noth Tyreside v
Rossendale (11.0), Pymouth v North Devon
(11.0): Rechadge v Harlow; Sheffield v
Setton (11.0), Wattord v Islangton (10.48),
FA Premier League Under-19 Trophy;
Ceveland v Cumbris, North Yorkshire v
South Yorkshire (11.0) FA Premier League
Under-18 Trophy; Cleveland v Cumbris;
North Yorkshire (11.0) FA Premier League
Under-18 Trophy; Cleveland v Cumbris;
North Yorkshire (11.0) FA Premier League
Under-18 Trophy; Estagton v Harrow
London Hawker Trophy; Islangton v Harrow
London Sun Shield; Rectandige v Croydon;
South London v Harlow London Confirition Shield; Havering v South London
Inter-town challenge matches: Seabornumbertand; Salford v Md Cheshire,
Harrippool v Carlote; Verteither Trophy;
Huddershield v Donoster; Spen Valley v
Calordale North West Alder Cup; First
round; Blackbool v West Lancastine,
Marchester v Burrier; Oktham v Rochdale
West Middends League; Bineley Hill and
Dudley v Walsal; Telford v Halesowen and
Stouthfulge; West Brommech v Wolverhampton; Mad and South Warwicks v
Berningham; Telloud v Stole Kent Cup
Under-16: Bromley v North Kent London
Gill Cup; Newtham v South London
Call Cup; Newtham v South London
Call Cup; Newtham v South London
Strietic Medium v Gosport, Key
Trophy; Hachrey v Conyclon, Wolong v
Barking Mid-Oton v Gloupster Southem League; Southam v Rochdale
Woodward Trophy; Sound round;
Tameside v Liverpool Mayee League;
Aldershot v Southampton; Gosport v

 FOOTBALL Kick-off 3 8 unless stated FA Certing Premiership West Ham v Manchaster United (4 D) Nationwide League Rest division

West Bromatch v Solton (1.0)

LEAGUE OF WALES: THE Cable-Tel v Caersus Fai harp lacer national league Premier division: Bray v Starwock (2.0), Cark v UCD (2.0); Shelbqurre v Ségo (3.15). FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEADUE: National divisions Eventor & Croydon's Marine FC 1237; Resilon v Arbend (at New Marine Ground 2 Ct. Liverpool v Southernpool v fut Kindry South Sadurin 120), Milhealt v Doncaster (at Fisher FC 2 Or Wentbley v Transfers (at Wombrey FC 2 Or FC 2 Or Wentbley V Transfers (at Wombrey FC 2 Or FC 2 Or FC 2 Or Wentbley V Transfers (at Wombrey FC 2 Or FC FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE. Northern division: Byo: Spartans v. Actor. Wiles Garsaccod. 5: Holens v. Note: County, Hudderstoid v. Wokenhampton: Shelfaid Wodersday v. Structor. Southern division: Both annales v. Whitcharik. Langford v. Town and County, Leydon Onert. English and Holos, Three Bridges v. Colont. Rec. Winnelsday v. Isano Onert. e. Bridges.

RUGBY UNION Courage Clubs Championship HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier divisions:
Bariord Tigets v Cartestoury let Holphead LC.
101. Guident v Carnock (at Ving's Menor School, 12.0); Hounclow v East Ginnstead let Dukos Meachows: Cheswick, 12.30), cell Loughtensans v Reading (at Chigmed, 1.30); Sushitzr, v Havant let Supiden Hot, 2.30); Indiangton v Southgate let Teddington v Southgate let Teddington v School 1.30) First division: Crestive v Hull let Chigmed, 1.30); First division: Crestive v Hull let Chigmed, 1.0) Donaster v Cay of Porthmouth (at Bennethorpe, 2.0) Edghaston v Brooklands (at Benningham Linemarky, 1.30); First and School 1.0); Southgate Linguistic (at School), Indiana (at Longwood, 1.0); First and Vision (at Longwood, 1.0); First and Vision (at Longwood, 1.0); Southgat V Colord University at Abbeydale Park, 2.0); Southgat v Lines (at Kaddemunster School, 1.0); Tojums v Indian Gymidiana as Soneham Lane, 1.30); Warnnaton v Beeston (at Parketh HS, 1.0); Wood (at Parketh HS, 1.0); Wood (at Parketh HS, 1.0); Wood (at Parketh HS, 1.1); Cartes (at Parketh H

Modern Scrue MATCH: Websy Gaster City - Cantoxide University (1230) DITHER SPORT

CITHER SPORT

BASKETBALL Budweiser Leegue: Crystal
Palace v Hernel and Wasford (7 15). Classic
Cole National Cup' Semi-final, second leg.
Londor: Towers v Loquerds (5.0) 7-UP
Trophy: Chester v Neucasile (8.0)
ICE MOCKEY: Superleague; Agr v Brachell
(6.0). Notingham v Basingstoker (7 30/
Carutif v Shelfield (6.0)
VOLLEYBALL: National League. Women's
first division. Orphysion v Leetar Essex v
Loughborough. Berningham v London Malory: Manchester Utd Safford v Sheffield
Wisdnesday.

Hiswart, President's Laegue; Southerripton v Basingstoke; Isle of Wight v Gosport, Kent Harvey Cup: Meliotstone v North Kent Notts Cup: Semi-field Nottingham v Rote Harveycod Trophy: South Laibester v Nottingham. Vernon Laegue: Liverpool v Rethoy, 'Crosby v Bootle. Allcook Cup: Chester v South Chestrie. Woodward Cup: Chester v South Chestrie. Woodward Cup: Chester v South Chestrie. Woodward Cup: Liverpool Snowdon Cup: St Helens v Liverpool Snowdon Cup: St Helens v Labra. Camp Cup: Bernot v West Tyne; Newcastle v East Northumberland, North Tyneside v South Northumberland.

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE Promise League: Ashford v Maidenhead, Chuchester v Riczmond; High Wycombe v Beckenhem; Old Whiteilisens v Old Kingstonens; Ramoartes v Winchester Spencer v Leaguer. Ashtord v Maldernhead. Chechester v Richmond; High Wycombe v Bedenherm; Old Whitigitians v Cld Kingstoniene; Ramganha v Winchester. Spencer v Anchonans; Tunbinge Wells v Bournerouth; Wentiledon v Hempstead and Westminster. Wolding v Ferenherm; Woldingham v Gore Court. Hempsthire/Surreys. Andover v Cld Mid Whitigitians, Besingstoke v Otschott; Ortad v Barnes; Old Carneleghans v Epsom; Goan v Camberley; Dulwich v Cld Walcountens; Blandlard v Walton and Weybodge; Petersfield v Purley; Cheem v Portsmouth, Southampton v London University. KentiSussee Bedephakin v Herbe Bey; Blackheste v Bedey Invests: Bognor v Old Williamsnomens; Brighton v Asthord; East-bourne v Old Bordensens; Lloyds Bark v Medicition; Mid Sussex v Old Holcombelars. Severnotis v Honsham: Tutbe Hill v Marcten Russess: Worthing v Belvedere, Middulferfour, Bluch and Olivit Fernham Common v Eastsotte; Llons v West Hampstead; Marlow v Mil Hill Million Kaynes v Heyes; Newbury v Hesdingson; OMT v Henome; PHC Chester v Bracherél. Staines v Amerstam, Senbury v Bracherél. Staines v Amerstam, Senbury v Bracherél. Staines v Herborne; Loughborough Stadents v Between v Beston; North Vernett, Phylology. Southout v Bothore; Loughborough Stadents v Bernett, V Gentandt, Crossis v Sentind Bankers; Herrogate v Neston; North v Formor, Ramganha v Bent Hindrigton v Rothore; Ipswich Petersen V Sentind Gelv; Redbridge and Bood v Peterborough Town; Sudkury v Cambridge Linversity Premier division & Hurthoria; Cockhester v Spawich; Derthern v Combridge Cay; Redbridge and Bood v Peterborough Town; Sudkury v Cambridge Linversity Premier division & Hurthoria; Cockhester v Spawich; Derthern v Combridge Cay; Redbridge and Bood v Peterborough Town; Sudkury v Cambridge Linversity Premier division & Hurthoria; Destinan v Cortect. Cid Southerneds and Bedond Town, Westchif v Norwich City Wond Sent Redbridge Chay; Redbridge and Bood v Peterborough Town; Sudkury v Cambridge Cay; Redbridge and Bood v Peterborough Town v Sent Redbridge Charten v Colved.

Southendian v Bedford Town, Westcliff v Nowich Cay which Cay which the Committee of the Com

RUGBY LEAGUE

RUGBY LEAGUE
NATIONAL CONFERENCE (LAGUE) Premiter dishelors Beariery v Lock Larve (2 0),
Legit Miners v Dudley Hill (2 30),
Saddleworth v Heastoft (2 30), Wagan St
Pathols v Egyenford (2 30), First division,
Slatichook v Wigan St Judes (2 0), East
Leachs v Outton (2 0), Eastmoor v Legih East
2 30), Millions v Thombill (2 0), Meldigreen v
Barrow Island (2 0), Watney Central v
Askam (2 0), Second division: Ecclas v
Deschury Moor (2 0), Ovenden v
Normanion (2 0), Republi v Hull Dockers
(2 0), Shaw Cross v New Earswick (2 0),
York Acom v Milliond (2 0)

Nick-off 230 unlaws stated Tour match : Barbarians v Australia XV (at Twickenham, 3.0)

Courage Clubs Championship Beth v Harleculns (2.15) Gloucester v London vish (3.0) Orreil v West Hartiepool (2.0) Wasps v Bristol (3.0) Third division Leads v Clifton (3.0)

Reading v Widnes (2.15) .

Group C

Group D

Ystredgynteis v Rotherhem

ODIN'TY CHANFONGHE: Source Pool one: Hertfordshre v Surrey (at Hertford, 3 0) Pool twee Buckrigherneinte v Devon (at Aylesbury, 2 15; Middlesen v Somernei (at Old Merchant Teytors', 2 15). Pool three: Berlishire v Eastern Counties (at Bracknel, 2 15): Dorst and Wilshire v Hampshire (at Bournemouth, 2 15) Pool four: Gloucestershrire v Sussex (at Chelternich, Kant' v Commeil (at US Chelternich, Kant' v Commeil (at US Chelternic, Kant' v Commeil (at US Chelternic, Worldington, 2 (3); Lanceshire v Leicestershire (at Waterloo, 2 15) Pool boot Cheshine v Wannickshire (at Birkenhead Parkt; Northumberland v Nottinghamshire, (at Blaydon, 2 15); Yorkshire v Staffordehire (at Blaydon, 2 15); Yorkshire v Staffordehire (at Halten, 2 15).

(at Harres, 2 19).
RPU INTERNACIONATE CUP: North division:
Fourth round: Broughton Park v Micelestraugh.
RPU JUNION CUP: North division: Fourth round: Old Bedians v Southport.

Weish League Funt division Cserphilly v Cardifi
Llanelli v Newbridge
Newport v Dunwart
Pontypridd v Bridgend
Swanese v Neath
Treorchy v Elobw Vale THIRD DIVISION: Builth Wells v Terby Utd. Tradegar v Penarir; Marthyr v Llantesan, Rummay v Tonduc Pyla v Karberiic Mauntain Ast v Kanlig Hill. Tennents Premierahip First division

Second division

Bigger v Glasgow Academicals (2.0) Glasgow HK v Kelac (2.0) Gala v Edinburgh Academicals (2.0) West of Scotland v Dundee HSFP (2.0) Third division

Kriustov v Glasgow Southern (2.0) Pasities v Museaburgh (2.0) Preston Looga v Salicik (2.0) Slawart's Malville FP v Klimernock (2.0) Fourth division Ayr v Grangemouth (2.0) _____Constorphine v Gordonians (2.0) _____

Hithead/Jordanhii v Haddington (2.0) Langhoim v Gierrothes (2.0) Insurance Corporation League Pirst division

Second division Clontarf v UCC
Dolphin v Wanderers
Greystones v Matone
Highfield v Becther Rangers
Monistown v DLSP
NFC v Sunday's Weil

CLUB MATCHES: Aspetits v Blaydori, Birninghern/Solfhull v Carro Hitl, Burton v Welselt; High - Wycombe v Aylesbury, Kenda v Kidens, Luriheld v Macelesfield, Liverpool, St. Helens v New Brighton; London Welsh v Henley (2.16); Manchester v Wilmsbur, North Welshern v Sudoury, Sandel v Bridingson (2.16); Stoke v Wolveshampton.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Buchweiser League: Worthing v Leopards (8.0), 7-Up Trophy: Derby v Sheffield (7.30); Lelcaster v Chester (7.30); Thames Valley v Barmingham (8.0). BOWLS: Liberty Trophy: Hertlordshire v Norfcit; Berksbire v Sussec; Middlesex v

BOXING: Scotland Ameliaus v England Ameliaus (in Glasgow). ICE HOCKEY: Benson and Hedges Cup: Pinal: Ayr v Nottingham (et Shelfield, 7.0). Final: Ayr v Notungham (et Sheffield, 7.0).
LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph Senior Flags: Second round: Molor v Poynton; Stockport v Cheadle Hulme, Old Wedonlans v Boardman and Eccles, Hastion Mersey v Timperley, Daily Telegraph Jurtior Flags: Second round: Notificial v Sheffield Inviersity, Stockport v Safe; Cheadle Hulme v Asthor; Cheadle Av Sheffield Inviersity, Stockport v Safe; Cheadle Hulme v Asthor; Cheadle Av Sheffield Steelers Alf-England women's county tournement (st Downe House School, Newbury).

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BASKETBALL: HIS AIRNESS STILL RULES THE HOOPS AS HIS STAR FADES AT BOX OFFICE

Jordan's enterprise rockets on

Oliver Holt, in Milwaukee, encounters

a basketball legend on top of his game

prove I

can still

play at

The defeat that Michael. Jordan had been fearing was dignified when it came. There was comfort in the fact that the leading position, that he had occupied for so long, had been ceded to a worthy and popular rival. It was there in black and white anyway: Space Jam, the film in which he co-stars alongside Bugs Bunny, has fallen behind First Contact, the new Star Trek film, at the top of the

American box office charts. Space Jam, of course, has been slated by the critics for the commercial tosh it undoubtedly is, but the film, which will push Jordan's earnings next year to more than \$100 million (about £62 million), does have one unwittingy redeeming feature. For ollowers of the man who has dominated the game of basketball for the past six years and who shows no signs of releasing his grip, there is a delicious irony

in its simple plot. 'I need to lt involves aliens, naturally, coming to earth to steal the powers of leading National Basketball Association (NBA) players such as Charles Barkley, this level'

Patrick Ewing and Larry Johnson. Jordan is enlisted by the Loony Tunes to win them back and restore them to their owners. There are no prizes for guessing if he

The irony? Well, as Jordan lounged on a treatment couch in the Chicago Bulls locker-room before his team's game against Milwaukee Bucks here on Tuesday night and talked about how he is better now than he ever was, how his game has changed and his skills have "expanded", it became startlingly obvious: Michael Jordan's stellar basketball career has never encompassed helping rivals to look good; it has been about

making them look ordinary. Jordan scored 40 points against the Bucks, without having a particularly good ime. Unusually for him: he missed several attempts to sink his new favourite move. the turnaround jump shot,

leaps and turns in the air and loops the ball into the basket. He still sank enough of them to score more than twice the points of any team-mate.

"My game is not as predictable as it used to be before I went off to play baseball," he said. "It has moved away from slam-dunking eye-opening moves to more basic things like the turnaround jump shot.

I like that That shows the

versatility of my skills. "I use more rationale than I used to now, too. Why should I do something spectacular like take off from the free-throw line when I could just make a jump shot?
"A few years ago, people

were criticising me and saying all I wanted to do was drive and dunk, but now that is When I look at old videos, I see things I haven't done in a while. You can't say I can't do them, it's just

because I haven't "I have found other ways to be learns that by like Larry Bird and Magic John-son. They found new ways to challenge themselves

separates good players from the great players." With the season almost a quarter of the way through its punishing schedule, the Bulls, led by Jordan, Scottle Pippen and Dennis Rodman, have aiready established themselves as the clear favourites to win the NBA championship in May with a record of 17 wins and one defeat. Jordan, who has already been the league's top scorer in eight previous years, is out in front again, averaging more than 30 points

and change. That is what

For the first time in several years, he dropped to second behind Mike Tyson - in the list of top-earning sportsmen published by Forbes magazine. The consolution was that he sitii earmed a one million salary from the Bulls. the highest in league history, brought in another \$22.6 mil-

a game, four more than any-



Jordan's power and athleticism take him soaring above his marker to jam the ball

year when the profits from Space Jam start to roll in.

That, though, presumes "His Airness" will still be playing next year. As he sat in the locker-room, still dressed in his yellow polo shirt and slacks half an hour before the game, he was the picture of laconic contentment and selfabout the future, ready to embrace whatever it brings.

"I have no plans after the

one-year deal if they want to sign me, if the team continues the progress it has been making. If they decide they want to rebuild, bring in some younger players, there's a strong possibility I won't be around. If the Bulls don't sign me, I won't be going anywhere else. I would not put my family

th another move. "I'm happy with my game, happy in the role of team leader. The motivation is still there. It is always an attitude to prove my game, my skills, consistent skills. I need to prove that I can still play at this level and put up the same numbers against younger, better, more athletic talent. There is not that much longer before I have to choose another direction.

Then, as he stood up to walk over to where his strip hung . **someone asked hi**m if he could reasonably expect another \$30 million contract next season. "Why not?", he "Why would I expect

Ref blows whistle on curse of parent power

THIS week this column rings with sport and its natural accompaniment, the happy laughter of little children. Or as Alan Pemberton, a 57-yearold referee, said: "I'll never be doing children's matches again. I'll stick with the adults. They're a lot safer.

Pemberton had been punched, kicked and belaboured with the corner flags in the course of an encounter between Farsley Celtic Under-17s and Ossett Town Juniors in the Leeds and District

Minor League last Sunday.

The assault began after he called off the match, when poised intriguingly at 2-2. The reason for the abandonment was the ceaseless abuse that Pemberton received from the touchline (when this column is made president of world sport the first thing I will do is ban sport involving their progeny).

At this Pembertonian ukase, as many as eight Farsley players allegedly set about the poor ref. The police at Pudsey are on the case; meanwhile Farsley have been suspended from the league while inquiries continue

☐ Meanwhile, Diego's illegit-imate child, fruit of the illicit liaison between himself and Cristina Sinagra, is ready to make his first official appearance as a footballer. He plays for Accademia against Nola in a Christmas tournament.

Name game

Perhaps this is not such a good omen for Diego Jr. An Italian non-league club has been banned from playing home games after an incident in which fans attacked linesmen and ref in a 30-strong pitch invasion in a match against Virtus-La Catsellana. The club, based at the eponymous town near Perugia, is called

Nanny state

Who said this? I. My career's been like the migrating woodcock. You've got all the shooters and storms trying to whack you down, but, in the end, you just want to get to new fields. 2. Football is a fertility festival. Eleven sperm trving to get into the egg sorry for the goalkeeper. 3. O One wish? A. Apart from world peace, a long injury-free career. 4. I tell my players they've made a happy man





On Saturday

very old. 5. Not only do the South Koreans names sound the same, but they all look similar, don't they?

All these from the latest edition The Umbro Book of Football Quotations, an es-sential work whose previous offerings have entered the lore and language of the game, by Peter Ball and Phil Shaw, published by Ebury Press price £9.99. Answers below.

Roast Chestnut

Another childish story. Chestnut Ridge High School is based in New Paris, Pennsylvania, and, though it may not rival the old Paris in every respect, they, appropriately, took on a French exchange student, Greg Giraud.

Giraud was injured by a fall from a five-storey building when he was faree, but, being a garcon not without courage, he can play football - sah-kerr, not gridiron — on his crutches: but, after his first appearance for the Pennsylvanian Parisians, the state's Interscholastic Athletic



because the crutches were. 'iliegal equipment and a danger to other players". Giraud, showing the sort of maturity: that is seidom found among adults in sport, said: "I was very upset at the beginning, but it's just a game."

Rich seam

The exhibition entitled Work Hard, Play Hard, which celebrates the links between mining and sport, has attracted a good deal of notice since it opened at the National Coalmining Museum for Eng-land at Caphouse Colliery. Overton, Wakefield.

One of the splendid nuggets unearthed by the operation is the fee Matt Busby paid to take Tommy Taylor, a Barnsley inside forward and former pitman, to Manchester United. Taylor, who was killed in the Munich air crash, was

bought for £29,999.
This is an odd sum, the sort of money publishers will no doubt be charging for books in about 18 months, but the publisher's fear of the terminal nought has never been part of footballing tradition. Now it can be told: the extrapound went to the Barnsley. tea-lady. Busby, although aware that he was paying a world record sum, said that he was reluctant to saddle Taylor with the pressures of being the first £30,000

Number crunch

And meanwhile, the search for sport's magic numbers is hotting up. As ever, a bottle of Nicolas Feuilatte champagne. will go to every reader who, produces a number filled with sporting beauty, from this year, or from deep in the annals of time.

Results to be published around Christmas. Examples. Two: the number of penalties. Stuart Pearce has successfully dispatched in England penalty shoot-outs. And 492: the number of balls Michael Atherton faced in that innings.

Answers to quotations: 1... Vinnie Jones. 2. Bjork, Icelandic pop singer. 3. Gareth. Southeate, in a questionnaire. 4. Jimmy. Nicholl, then manager of Raith Rovers, 5. Alan Parry. ITV commentator, during the World Cup finals of 1994.

come e tail

without fuss



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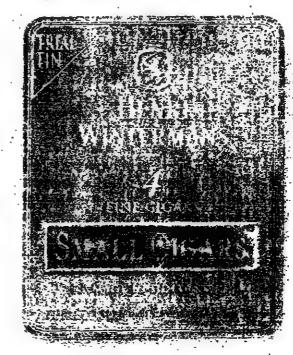
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RUGBY UNION

Rebel forces unite for Barbarians to face Australians

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

FIVE Newcastle players join Twickenham today, a coincifew at the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) headquarters given the flag of defiance being flown in the North East this weekend. However many of the first and second division clubs choose to sign an accord with the RFU next week, it seems unlikely that Newcastle will be one of them.

The quintet, four of whom will start for the Barbarians while Doddie Weir is among the replacements, include Rob Andrew, in what may prove enham of an illustrious career unless Newcastle schieve great things in the Pilkington Cup or Europe while he is still active. Andrew also represents the kind of long-term invest-Newcastle's owners do not turn their back on rugby

Representatives Newcastle and Bedford have already voiced their disapproval of the peace agreement at English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) proposes with the RFU, though, if

Barbarians

any salient change is made over the next few days, their views could yet be amended. If they choose not to sign, however, it does not mean that they will not continue in domestic competition - only that they will receive no financial consideration from the

Sir John Hall, the Newcastle owner, is unlikely. however, to turn his back on the £2 million that has already been ploughed into the dub. There is no way we will walk away from the rugby club," Freddie Shepherd, a director of Newcastle United and one of their three-man team dealing with recent rugby negotia-tions, said yesterday. "We are not quitters and never will be." Newcastle will continue to

contemplate action against the RFU in the European courts over broadcasting and players' rights, with Bedford alongside them. "We have tried to persuade them that all the clubs should stick together and we are very sorry to say they are not still with us, Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, who seeks final agreement by next week, said. Meanwhile, there is a game

TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

AUSTRALIA XV

- T Stimpson (Newcastle) N Walker (Cardiff) A Bateman (Richmond) G Townsend (Northampton)
- T Underwood (Newcastle
- N Hewitt (Southland) D Geriorth (i eiceste
- D Mcintosh (Pontypridd) C Dulmanii (Richmond) Jones (North Herbour)
- V Back (Lilounier)

- M Burke (NSW) J Roff (ACT) D Herbert (Queensland) T Horan (Queensiand) D Campese (NSW)
- S Payne (NSW) M Caputo (ACT)
- A Blades (NSW) O Fineciari (ACT) D Giffin (ACT) T Gewin (NSW)

to be played in which the Australians, unheaten on their European tour and victors over Italy, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, will endeavour to show against the Barbarians the style that has been largely absent from their tour. They would love to do so for their own sake and not just to give David Campese one last northern-hemisphere show-

case for his unique talents. However, there is a singu larly hard-nosed Barbarian line-up facing them, the thread running back from Andrew via Norm Hewitt and Ian Jones, the two New Zealanders in the pack, to a back row that includes Scott Ouinnell and Dale McIntosh. It is these two who are of particular interest to the Wales selectors, who have postponed the announcement of their team to play South

Africa until Monday.

McIntosh, the uncap Pontypridd player, is of New Zealand stock but became eligible this month to play for Welsh Rugby Union over contractual arrangements, but there is optimism that the deadlock can be broken. "We need a more physical back row and I think there are players who may become available," Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, hinted after the defeat by Australia. He will also be keenly interested in the performance of Allan Bateman in the Barbarian midfield.

Bateman, capped four times from Neath in 1990 before going to rugby league, re-turned from Cronulla to join Richmond this season and could form, with Scott Gibbs and Jonathan Davies, a Welsh midfield, all of whom have distinguished themselves in the other code. With Tony Underwood seeking a restoration on the England wing, the eighth meeting between the invitation club and the Australlans will keep national selectors as well as a 70,000 crowd



Andrew practises his kicking yesterday before making what could be his last appearance at Twickenham today for the Barbarians

New-look France eager to eradicate bad memories

BY DAYLD HANDS

South Africa Won 22-12.

only the French, in the contin-

ued absence of five injured

Castaignède, Ntamack.

Penaud and Roumat -- could

cast out another eight players

ing the space of a week and

because so many inexperi-

enced players were called up

seemed to be overawed," Jean-

Claude Skrela, the France

coach, said, "but we showed in

the second half we could test

them. If we can cut out the

handling mistakes and choose

the right options, we can

Guy Accoceberry has been-

restored at scrum half and will

hope to develop his team's

back play, but that may de-

pend upon the speed with which he establishes a rela-

tionship with Christophe

Lamaison at half back

Lamaison has played centre to

Penaud during Brive's suc-

The first test was difficult

start all over again.

combined to offer France a rallying call when they attempt today to level the twomatch series with South Africa at the Parc des Princes: the weather has been foul and the referee is Derek Bevan, which recalls the World Cup semifinal played in Durban last year when France lost in a mud solash to the bost nation. South Africa.

Bevan, the Welsh official, under considerable pressure from the tournament organisers to play the game despite the atrocious conditions, kept his nerve admirably in a match which the South Africans won by four points. Not

half's role, as well as shoulder CIRCUMSTANCES have all his decisions were greeted ing the goal-kicking ahead of with giee by France, but now a Richard Dourthe. new management and a new It will be Lamaison's second team must attempt to rid

themselves not so much of cap, but he will hope to use the memories from 1995, but those reative running of Stephan of Bordeaux last week when Glas and give Laurent Leflamand, the one new cap, some opportunities on the wing Leffamand, a six-footer, Only four of the team this afternoon played in Durban, including Olivier Merle, the toured New Zealand with France in 1994. lock recalled after injury to strengthen a pack that was South Africa are unchanged well beaten in Bordeaux; but

for the fourth successive game. Gary Teichmann's emergence as a captain and player of genuine quality in the two victories over Argentina and last week has helped his countrymen to forget the travails against New Zealand and Australia last summer and the furore that accompanied the selection of this tour

Defeats for the midweek team by the French Barbarians and French Universities have not impinged upon the determination of the "first XV" to conclude the year in triumph by winning today and against Wales next Sunday.

Why New Zealand have left the rest of the world behind **GERALD DAVIES**

That New Zealand inhabit a different sphere of rugby should be may well be the case that the southern hemisphere countries occupy first division status and that England and France can claim to be their partners. Even within this category, however, the All Blacks are way ahead of the pack. Perhaps they can be said to be the sole occupants of a premier division. We shall soon see whether South Africa are worthy of joining

Greg Smith, the Australia coach, said, after their victory over Wales last Sunday, that the gap is closing between his team and their neighbours across the Tasman Sea, but, in reality, they have quite a All Blacks.

Australia rely too much on strength in the forwards and no longer have the faith to pursue the kind of total rugby that they once displayed with alacrity and that brought them their rewards on the grand slam tour of 1984 and at the 1991 World Cup.

Strange to say, for so unshrinking a sporting nation, they are not confident with a style that had been part of their rugby since the days of Catchpole and Hawthorn in the Sixties.

For all their territorial advantage last weekend and a superior lineout score of 21-9. there was hardly a sign of

in midfield and nothing of Roff and Campese on the wings. The vi-sion of Burke, at full back, was seen almost by acci-dent. It is doubtful if the All Blacks would have all-

owed such authority to prevail without insuring the attendant level of scores. They would have driven the point home mercilessly.

This summer, the Blacks swept aside all that was placed before them. Not having played since their suc-cessful series in South Africa. a representative team from New Zealand, the Barbarians, could still come to Twickenham and win. Pride in their performance and respect not sentimental attachment for their forefathers' tradition are wonderfully motivating

Furthermore, professionalism has, in New Zealand, meant the pursuit of excellence, not money. This comment would be dismissed as sententious claptrap if uttered by anyone other than John Hart, the New Zealand enach, who cares little for irony. The proof is there, on the field, for everybody to see. The value of the silver fern, therefore, and all that it stands for, remains greater than anything that an accountant may care to assess. They would have it no other

Australia have a powerful team, as do England. They both look well drilled and have listened to their advisers, as have, no doubt, New Zealand. In all those matters where they can be measured -strength, fitness, diet and so



Commentary

on - they have been made look the part.

Speed can be measured too, and it was the vital ingredient that Hart spoke about last week. It was, he felt, the essential difference between his team and England. On the rugby field, speed is not absolute in the way that it is on the track. Changes of direction, angles of running. the swiftness and accuracy of somebody else's pass can all make the opposition appear slower than they actually are. This kind of speed creates as much for New Zealand as speed of thought. In addition, their basic skills are almost

It is in these skills that New Zealand have moved so much farther than the rest. Whether

The proof

is there,

on the

field'

the sun shines or All- Blacks react. From one generation to the next. rugby's verities are handed down not through acaanalysis but, more influentially.

word of mouth from men who have travelled the road before them. It is in the blood. While other things can be measured. these cannot

It is also noticeable that New Zealand never give the impression of entering periods of transition in the way that other teams do. Certainly it is never offered as an explanation as to why they may be faltering.

They vacillated during the World Cup in 1991, which signalled the end, finally, of Wayne Shelford's influential team of the late Eighties. In Sean Fitzpatrick there emerged, seamlessly, another remarkable captain to continue the lineage. If there was some self-questioning before the last World Cup, it largely centred on the need to change the style of play, and from it emerged another great team.

The All Blacks stumble, but for no more than a season. They are soon back on track. They can introduce players such as Carlos Spencer and Joeli Vidiri, as they did last Saturday, without upsetting the team's equilibrium.

All this makes a mockery of those who concluded, more than a year ago, that, on the basis of their performances in the World Cup in South Africa, New Zealand were a one-man team: Jonah Lomu. On such slack observation do

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

SEVEN WHIREPOOL MICROWAVES TO BE WON

Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition. The Times brings you the chance to win, not seven swans aswimming, but seven microwaves worth £199.99 each from Whirlpool, the world's largest manufacturer of white goods. The new Whirlpool

range, launched in April, has much to recommend it. The company's patented DES (double emission system), ensures an even cooking performance whether defrosting, reheating or cooking. With DES, microwaves are fed into

the cavity from two entry points at different times, creating a third microwave field. The prize ovens are easy and economical to use, give perfect results every time and brown, crisp and grill just like a conventional oven.

They have a capacity of 27 litres, 1000W power, a reheating facility and an add-a-bit-more button which allows you to add 10% more cooking time, at the correct power level, just by pressing the add button. The main prize winner

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programmes, a self-cleaning micro

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight. Narmal Times. Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply. Calls cost (per minute) 45p cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

cessful Heineken Cup run, but Bath eyes drawn to centre spread

Mendez and Dan Lyle in the

and cup commitments, Bath will reacquaint themselves, after five weeks, with Courage Clubs Championship business and the prospect, at the Recreation Ground today, that Harlequins could seriously damage their hopes of a seventh league title in nine

Bath have not lost to Harlequins in 12 league meetings over nine years. This, and the knowledge that only victory will do, are the incentives for an encounter that has implications beyond domestic jostling for position. "It's a huge game for us; if we lose this one that will probably be it as far as the league is concerned." Phil de Glanville, the Bath and England captain, said.

With a week until England meet Argentina, the confrontation at centre unites the eternal triangle of Jeremy Guscott, de Glanville's Bath partner, and opposite him Will Carling, the present England centre outside de Glanville. As the sideshow, Carling v Guscott -England centres a record 43 times together — will interest more than the selectors.

Although a contest of flair and adventure on one level, more traditional strength could prevail. Up front Bath were susceptible to Leicester, Northampton and Cardiff in the Heineken Cup, and they give league debuts to Federico

omission from the right flank in order to extract the maximum from Robinson's short term investment, is hardly a vote of confidence in him. Unlike Robinson, Va'aiga Tuigamala is not expected back at Wigan until the Super League starts in March: Tuigamala, the dual international centre, is deemed too

important to release so soon

Issum Robinson has

month left at Bath before he

returns to Wigan and rugby

league. Jon Sleightholme's

Wasps, who will take over the first division leadership should Harlequins lose and they overcome a depressed Orrell this week issued a plaintiff appeal for sponsors.
After the loss of 17 players, the arrival of Richard Higgs, a back-row forward from New Zealand, has reversed one trend, but Orrell, the bottom

club, need desperately to

change another by getting off

the mark at home to West Hartlepool. Northampton will be confronted tomorrow by an expected 16,000 capacity crowd Welford Road and a Leicester side that has lost to them only once there in 20 matches. Gregor Townsend. 24 hours after representing the Barbarians, is at stand-off half for Northampton, with Paul:

Grayson moved to full back.

ICE HOCKEY

Kummu's reprieve fortifies **Eagles**

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

THE latest in a succession of inexplicable disciplinary decisions by the Superleague has a strong bearing on the Benson and Hedges Cup final at Shef-field tonight. Ryan Kummu, of Ayr Scottish Eagles, is serving a six-game suspension that should have kept him out of the final against Not-tingham Panthers, but it has been decided that the suspension should apply only to Superleague fixtures and this leaves him free to take his place in the

Having lost only one of their past seven games while the Panthers have lost all of their past six, the Eagles were already favourites and this strengthens their claims. They also welcome back Alan Schuler, another defenceman, who has not played since he was helped off the ice with concussion during the semi-final at Basingstoke in October.

The Panthers have had a number of injury prob-lems, notably the broken hand suffered by Paul Adey while helping Great Britain to beat Slovenia in an Olympic qualifying game last month. However, he is fit to return. Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, is most adept at utilising his forces for a one-off occasion such as tonight, but probably he does not have sufficient resources to overcome the strength in depth of the

Ayr squad. In Jiri Lala, their former Czech international, the Eagles have one of the most skilful players that the game has known. while, in Scott Young, they have one of the most versatile defencemen playing in Britain.

Garth Premak is equally reliable on the Notting ham blue line while Derek Laxual, their former National Hockey League forgoalscoring form of late.

BADMINTON

CRICKET

CURLING

COPENHAGEN: European chempion-ships: Merr: Quarter-Breis: Germeny 7 England 1: Scotland 10 Norway 7; Sweden 9 Denmark 1, Switzerland 5, Finland 4.

FOOTBALL.

DR MARTENS CLIP: First round, second leg: Biston & Radditch 3 (Radditch van 4-1

on agg) FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round replay: Louin 2 Theology 1 (set 1-1 after

TENNIS

Ivanisevic's power is key to quest for glory

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

time is money. So far, Goran Ivanisevic is wasting little of either. Yesterday he blasted his way into the semi-finals with a 6-4, 6-4 pasting of Mark Woodforde, serving his 1,500th ace of the year and taking his overall total to 1,511 a new record.

The match took 68 minutes and left Woodforde speechless, in the end he resorted to drilling the ball directly at Ivanisevic, but even that had no effect. "It was the only way I was going to win the match. trying to injure him," he said with a grin, "but it didn't work. He just shrugged it off and served another ace."

Ivanisevic had a word of advice for Woodforde about that. "He thinks he's going to hit me and I get nervous and hit a couple of double faults," he said. "He made a mistake. I get more angry and I hit ace,

ace and ace." Woodforde's strategy against the biggest service in the game was simple — "Just to try to get the ball back over the net and make him volley." Unfortunately for Woodforde, there was little chance of that. Ivanisevic broke Woodforde's service early in the first set and never looked back, rounding off the set with another ace. He broke Woodforde again at the

AT THE Grand Slam Cup, start of the second and consolidated the lead with another three aces to go 2-0 up.

Apart from a slight lapse and a double fault to allow Woodforde to level the scores at 4-4, it was all plain sailing for Ivanisevic as he broke back immediately and served out for the match with two more aces and a service winner. He was less than happy with the rest of his game - with volleys either hitting the back stop or failing to limp over the net — but his goal for the year had long since been achieved.
That was it, to serve more than 1,500 aces, now it's going to be very tough to break this record, even for me I think," he said. For the record, the 1,500th ace was belted down at 30-30 in the eighth game.

If aces come naturally to Ivanisevic, however, performing well on the very biggest stages still escapes him. So far he has reached two Wimbledon finals, but has never gone any further. "Next year I would like to serve one ace and win a grand slam," he said. "It's nice to serve aces, but I don't care. If I'm playing well, I don't need to serve so

Woodforde rather wishes that had been Ivanisevic's policy yesterday. It is not as if he does not know how to

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 2 Harriord 4: Plorida 4 NY istanders 2; New Jersey 2 Calgary 1; St Louis 0 Pricents 3; Los Angeles 1 Tempa Bay 2.

ICE SKATING

KADOMA, Japan: NHK Trophy; Men (after short programme): 1, I Kufk (Russ) 0.5 factored placements, 2, E Stojao (Can) 1.0; 3, S Banis (US) 1.5, 4, D Omiternio (Ukr) 2.0; 3, T Bohedge (US) 2.5. Women (after short programme): 1,7 kwasgowaiei (US) 0.5; 2, M Burysteya (Russ) 1.0; 3, 3 Humphraya (Can) 1.5, 4, H Yokoya (Jepan) 2.0; 5, F Suguri (Japan) 2.5; Ice dancing after computatory and original dancing! 1, M Anissana and G Pezzerat (Fr) 1.0; 2, S Monsotte and P Lavanchy (Fr) 2.0; 3, 1 Romanova and I Yazanchy (Ch) 2.0; 3, 1 Romanova and I Yazanchy (P) 2.0; 3, 1 R

Problezio and P Vereges (UN) 3.4, 5, 8 Fusar-Poli and M Mergaglio (B) 4.8, 98 Fusar-Poli and M Mergaglio (B) 4.8, 98 Eather short programme) 1, J Merio and T Sand (US) 0.5, 2, E Sheinkowa and V Maumov (Pues) 1.0, 8, K Ina and J Dunglen (US) 1.5, 4, M Kinal Turina and A Kruoleo (Kaz) 2.0, 5, M Merzees and J-M Bomber-der (Can) 2.5.

RACKETS

RUGBY UNION

TIGNES, Frence: World Cup freestyle: Mogule: Men: 1, J Romback (Swe) 25.76pts, 2, A hency (Russ) 24.85; 3, R Johnson (US) 24.57; Warner: 1, T Mittermayer (Ger) 24.32; 2, C Gilg (Fr) 24.31; 3, M Kartu (Fin) 24.05.

SQUASH

(re) 13-15, 15-7, 15-12, 15-4, SParke (Eng) bt Zubelt Jahan (Pak) 15-11, 15-17, 15-16, 15-10, bt Zubelt Jahan (Pak) 15-11, 15-17, 15-16, 15-7, 15-4; P Nicol (Scot) bt A Berada (Egypt) 13-15, 17-15, 15-7, 15-10, Semi-finalet Byles bt Carris 15-7, 15-10, Semi-finalet Byles bt Carris 15-7, 15-10, Semi-finalet Byles bt Carris 15-7, 15-10, Semi-finalet Byles (Architecture) 15-7, 15-12, 15-12, MARDOBY, Adrica Charge (Negri) 21-7, 21-4, 21-5; A Jurnaan (Iant bt P Addanct (Negri) 16-21, 21-13, 25-23, 21-15; R Rescand (Nigens) bt S Corpange (Negri) 21-10, 21-15; 21-10, S Esseited (Egypt) bt E Arrosah (Gra) 21-11, 21-7, 21-12, 21-14; A S Danho (Ghe) bt S Ludick (SA) 21-15, 21-12, 21-14, B Bogsle (Eth) bt Corpan (Negri) 21-14, 21-14; R Bruttun (Mazur) bt 34 Menanda (Negri) 21-15, 13-24, R

Cuerto (Kerr) 21-17, 21-17, 18-21, 21-14; 8 Brutturi (Maux) bit D J Mwangi (Kerr) 21-15, 21-17, 21-11; M Metroduhun (Ngong) br K Francis (Uga) 21-19, 21-14, 22-20; F Daim (Kerr) bt M Methodi (Alg) 21-14, 21-18, 21-12; È Teshriaye (Erh) bit P Musyoka (Kerr) 21-13, 21-14, 21-13, A Hainy (Alg) bt È Haramond (Sha) 21-14, 21-18

MUNICH: Compaq Grand Stam Cup: Cuprior-Streks: 7 Harmen (SB) bt M Washington (US) 7-5, 6-3: G harrison (Cro) bt M Woodbret (Aus) 6-4, 6-4; Y Ketelnikov (Russ) bt J Courter (US) 2-6, 6-4.

USEN'S CLUTE Lacous British a CLURE VICILITY LANGEST BETTER A STREET champtonship: Second round: A Street-Bingham bt J Wilmot 15-8, 15-11, 15-7. Quarter-finate: M the Williams bt R Owen-Erowne 15-9, 15-3, 11-5, 15-7; W Boone bt A Smith-Bingham 15-0, 15-4, 15-1.



Ivanisevic makes a backhand return during his victory against Woodforde yesterday

handle the best serve-and-volley players. With four Wimbledon doubles titles to his name and the Olympic doubles gold medal in his trophy cabinet, his game is up to it, but there comes a point when he is defenceless against such sheer power. "A guy like me would love to go back to playing with wooden rackets," Woodlorde said.

"I feel like maybe I would be a better player and maybe a guy like Goran would not be such a threat, but it ain t to be. I feel like, if I can get the ball back enough and make him play a bit, I am the better player. It may not make a lot of sense, but a lot of guys feel that way; but I have a lot of respect for that serve."

The power may demand

hairstyle leaves a lot to be desired. The top-knot is here to match since I put my hair like this," he said. "Old people are not so happy with it, but it's hard to please old people."

stay, though. "I lost only one

Today he will face Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who made a slow start before finally beating Jim Courier 2-6, 6-4, 8-6.

respect, but the Ivanisevic

SAILING: SAVE THE CHILDREN HEADS GLOBAL CHALLENGE FLEET EN ROUTE TO NEW ZEALAND

Crews make heavy weather of Southern Ocean

Tough test

ahead for

Southgate By Sydney Friskin

SOUTHGATE, with their sights on the league and cup double, can expect a tough test

in the premier division tomor-

row when they visit Teddngton, a team well-known for

After the exciting 4-3 victory

wer East Grinstead in the

fourth round of the Hockey Association Cup last weekend

Southgate are fielding the same side, with Woods leading the attack and Attala in

support. The attack continues to be inspired by Shaw in his

Teddington have only a

Cannock, who share the premier division leadership

with Southgate, take an unchanged side to Guildford hoping for another show of

determination by Crutchley, who has scored 24 goals in 11

Guildford, despite having

ost ground, have not yet given

up hope and will renew their challenge with Hall leading

the front line. He will be

supported from behind by

Jennings, who has scored 16

goals so far, mainly from short corners. East Grinstead, who

lost 4-2 to Cannock last week,

are hoping to renew their

challenge with an away win

The league was scheduled to

go into its winter recess from

against Hounslow.

slender chance of winning the league title, but have found fresh impetus in the forward

role as playmaker.

line from McBride.

matches this season.

their resilience.

By EDWARD GORMAN MILING CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time since the race began,

the usual upbeat reports from the BT Global Challenge crews are showing signs of change, as the reality of the hard slog through the Southern Ocean to mi home

On 3Com, which was ploughing

position yesterday, the crew described themselves as looking and feeling grim", with 4,507 miles still to sail to New Zealand.

On Commercial Union, which improved two places yesterday to eighth and is the first yacht to mount a permanent lookout for lumps of ice in the water, the crew reported: "As the along at about seven knots in seventh alleviated with competitions between matter of wedging yourself in wherev-

helmspersons for the best distance travelled in 20 minutes at the wheel." Reports from Simon Walker's Toshiba Wave Warrior, at the back of

vivid description of life at a permanent

er possible and continuously bracing yourself as the boat falls off wave after wave, crashing down with a thud."

The race leader is still Andy Hindley.

on Save The Children, who is about 175 miles west of the backmarker, Courtaulds International: Hindley has chosen one of the most northerly

ATHLETICS IN BRIEF

Kingston **Backley** to retires get more help from from senior his coach service TERRY KINGSTON, the

former Ireland hooker and

captain, yesterday announced

his retirement from represen-

tative rugby union, his appearance for Munster against

Australia last week marking his final match at that level.

Having gathered 29 caps, he is Ireland's second most

capped hooker, after Ken

Kingston played in all three World Cup campaigns, cap-taining Ireland in South Afri-

ca last year. He played his last

international match against

France in Paris last season. A

highlight of his career came in 1992, when he led Munster

to victory over the Austra-

Austria on grid

Motor racing: A 17-race 1997

ionship schedule, which in-

cludes an Austrian Grand Prix for the first time since

1987, was approved by the

International Automobile

Federation yesterday. The season will begin, as usual,

with the Australian Grand

Prix, in Melbourne, on

Power pays

Golf: The long-hitting pairing of John Daly and Laura Davies combined for a 63.

eight under par, to share the lead after the first round of the

J. C. Penney Classic In Flori-

da. They were were tied with

Donna Andrews and Mike

Hulbert, and Jesper Parnevik

American football: Indianap-

olis Colts, ravaged by injuries all season, lost another quar-

terback when Paul Justin

Philadelphia Eagles, but still

won comfortably, 37-10.

and Annika Sorenstam.

Eagles clipped

March 9.

Kennedy.

By DAVID POWELL ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JOHN TROWER could write a book called How To Coach an Olympic Medal Winner in Your Lunch Break. Thanks to a new scheme, which will free him to give Steve Backley, the javelin thrower, coaching when he needs it, rather than when Trower can get the time off, he hopes the book might be: How To Coach an Olym-

pic Champion.

Backley's results hardly suggest that he has been at a disadvantage - he has been Great Britain's most consistently successful championship athlete over the past five years - but he believes that he has been competing on unequal terms. Jan Zelezny, who forced Backley to settle for silver at the 1995 world championships and 1996 Olympic Games, has Jan Pospisil, his coach, available whenever he

needs him. Now Trower is swapping his suit for a tracksuit, leaving his job in corporate affairs to coach full time in a project funded by a £33,000 grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and supported by his employer, the Telford

March 9.

SCHEDULE: Morch 9 — Australia (Melbourne). March 30 — Brazil (São Paulo); April 13 — Argentina (Buenos Atres); April 27 — San Marto (Imbola): May 11 — Monaco (Monaco); May 25 — Spain (Barcelona); June 15 — Canadar (Monacel); July 13 — Britain (Siversiona); July 27 — Germany (Hockenhean); August 10 — Hungary (Budapean), August 10 — Hungary (Budapean), August 110 — Hungary (Budapean), August 110 — Hungary (Budapean), August 12 — Belgum (Spa); September 7 — Austria (Zeltweg), September 28 — Europe (Narburgning); October 12 — Japan (Suzuka), October 25 — Portugal (Essorii) Trust.

"John has been a major part of my career and the more time I spend with him the better," Backley said, recalling how, last summer, on a tight schedule for the Olympics after an Achilles tendon opera-tion in April, he could not

readily call on Trower.
"Four weeks after surgery I would drive three hours to Telford to see him in his lunch hour or after work," Backley said. This scheme is not a luxury, it is a necessity."

An immediate beneficiary will be David Parker, who, at ló last summer, threw li metres further than Backley with a 700-gram javelin. Parker lives in Scarborough and Trower, instead of seeing him once a month, will coach him probably once a week. "David is a huge talent and;

if driven and directed properly, he could be an Olympic champion, but not the next one," Backley said. With hand, Backley has earmarked the gold for himself at Sydney.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL ATIONAL LEAGUE (NPL): Indianaço

DEPUSAH, Batt World Cup: Singles: West Dong Jong (Chres) to G Eve Handles: West Dong Jong (Chres) to G Eve Handles: (Mahaysas) 15-7, 17-14, 1 Sheer-Lauridsen (Den) bit Wileys (Indo) 15-8, 15-17; R Sidek (Mahaysas) bit N Susanto (Indo) 15-18, [S-10, 18-1; Sun Jun (Chres) to S Neideant (Den) 15-3, 15-3; R Bush Kusumas (Indo) hit-lu Zhilan (China) 15-6, 15-4; P-E Hoyar-Larsen (Den) bit 8 Sertorso (Indo) 15-11, 15-13; F Permadi (Tahan) 15-14; P-E Hoyar-Larsen (Den) 15-6; Sertorso (Indo) 15-11, 15-13; F Permadi (Tahan) 15-14, 15-15, 15-4; Dissentio bit Neidean 15-7, 15-2; Budi Rusuma bit Hoyer-Larsen 15-7, 15-6; Sanston bit Hu 15-6; Howen: Gong Zhicheo (China) to Candrup (Swe) 11-4, 11-2; Yeo Year (China) bit Candrup (Swe) 11-4, 11-3; Yeo Year (China) bit Zeng 11-2, 6-11, 11-2; Gong bit M Auckins (Indo) 11-2, 11-11, 11-2; Gong bit M Auckins (Indo) 11-2, 11-11, 11-2; Grang the Mausawah (Indo) bit C Mentin (Den) 12-10, 4-11, 12-10; Hen Jingne (China) bit Mediuswah 11-5, 12-10; Martin bit Wang Chen (China) 11-6, 12-10; Martin bit Wang Chen (China) 11-6, 12-10; Susant bit Han 11-5, 11-4. HONG KONG: Hong Kong Open: Leaders siller two rounds: 138: R Cuello (Pht) 68, 70, 139: D Weisworth (US) 68, 73; B Chambles (US) 69, 70, 140; O Nordberg (See) 70, 70; D Erdssian (Gen) 71, 69; F Curin (US) 67, 72, 141; G Norousst (US) 74, 67; W Scrutte (SA) 71, 70; D Brogo (US) 74, 72; W Longritis (Eng), 72, 72; J Sacricans (Hol) 71, 71; R Russal (Sco) 70, 72; C Jones (Ma) 69, 73; C Joon (S Kor) 68, 74; E Puror (NS) 67, 75; C Joon (S Kor) 68, 74; E Puror (NS) 67, 75; PRAPAMALIAN BEACH: New Zandrod Open: Leaders after two rounds: 135: M Also (Aus) 64, 69 135: P Lonard (Aus) 67, 71; 138: R Personing (Aus) 67, 71; P Gow (Aus) 65, 72; J Ksy (Can) 70, 68, 138: S Scarli (NZ) 65, 73; P Sentor (Aus) 67, 138: R Personing (Aus) 67, 71; P Gow (Aus) 65, 72; J Ksy (Can) 70, 68, 71; S Scarli (NZ) 66, 73; P Sentor (Aus) 71, 68, 74; P Sentor (Aus) 68, 73; P Sentor (Aus) 71, 68.

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finate, first leg: Leoperda 93 London Towers 92 Sheffield 97 Newcastle 80. BUROLEAGUE: Group 24 Maccabil Tel Ariv 89 Panarios (Gr) 57. Ulcarspor (Tur) 99 Limogos (Fr) 91 Group 25. Charleton (Se) 75 Estudiarios Machel 82 Cibona Zagreb (Cru) 63 Olymosicos Athens 61. Group D. 75 Estudiantes Macint St. Loona Zept. (Cru) 63 Ormonitos Athens 61. Group Dr. Patron Bannaio (Mug) 76 Kindas Boloma (Mug) 76 Kindas Boloma (Mug) 76 Pau-Crimaz Frij. 76; Dynamo Moscow 79 Soville 75. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (MBA): Toronto 82 Washington 80; Chicago 114 LA Clippers 96; Delies 106 Philadelphia 102; Berthard 115. Denimo Fbil. Seelile 117. SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Hobert: Tasmanaa 352-3 (M J Di Venuto 119, D C Boon 106 not out, S Young 86 not

Routeau (Cen) 68, 70, 79, 74, 299; N Loddan (Swe) 73, 76, 74, 70; J Head 74, 73 74, 72; S Farron (NZ) 73, 71, 74, 75, 294; N Rule (US) 78, 75, 73, 66; S Forster 75, 76

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE LATEST POSITIONS Second leg Rio de Janeiro to Wellington 6,600 miles Position as at 13.50GMT yesterday

DISTANCE TO WELLINGTON: 1, Save The Children 4,382 miles; 2, Group 4 4,364; 3 Global Teamarch 4,396, 4, Motorole 4,404, 5, Conditt 4,416; 8, Toethbe Weve Warrior 4,431 104.5. Concert 4.416; 6. Toenshe Weve Warror 4.431; p. 4.506; 9. Nuclear Electric 4.516; 10. Pause To p. 4.506; 9. Nuclear Electric 4.516; 10. Pause To 23; 12, Heeth Incured II 4.552, 13, Time & 116; 4.552;

the leading bunch in sixth, provided a 30-degree angle close to the bottom of the world — The sea is icy and the wind eases, the monotony has been Survival and comfort below decks is a

boat is Concert, under Chris Tibbs, which is in fifth place.

Daily Scheduled Services

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4 x Edinburgh

3 x Aberdeen

tomorrow evening, but a number of matches that were called off a fortnight ago because of bad weather have been rearranged. These

include two in the premier division: Cannock will entertain Guildford next Sunday and Southgate will be at home to Teddington on Saturday. A number of first division matches have also been rearranged. Meanwhile, Beeston, the

first division leaders, expect to pick up three more points from an away match against Warrington, and Doncaster, only two points behind, should have little trouble at home against City of



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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

arsenal

return of The Bergkamp, fit again, gives Arsenal all sorts of extra options and should see them pick up another three points against Derby. Last Wednesday, against Southampton, he was overshadowed by a rampant Paul Merson. who was dangerous in everything he did. Vieira, Bould and Adams are due suspensions soon and all will be missed. Vieira will have to watch that combative approach. Adams, expelled at Newcastle,

DERBY COUNTY

seems unlucky.

Jim Smith has been in management long enough, 24 years to be precise, to know how to savour the good times. The bad inevitably follow, but these days little is going wrong for the "Bald Eagle". Where a month ago his forward line was considered a weakness, Sturridge and Ward are now playing together with the understanding of twin brothers. Derby have won three of their last four matches but could face

Arsenal, the leaders, at Highbury today

In the afterglow of Villa's smooth 2-0 success against West Ham on Wednesday, Brian Little, the manager, was suddenly asked if he would be persisting with his interest in Stan Collymore, Liverpool's rebel without applause. "I never talk about players contracted to other clubs," he replied. "Never have done, never will." Little made it clear he would not be drawn further on the touchy topic but most

of the assembled sportshounds took his

ASTON VILLA

EVERTON

and is expected to play.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

especially given that his side will again be without Hirst, Collins and

Newsome. "Liverpool are very strong now,

and I believe this season is their best chance

of winning the title for a long time," Pleat

said. But he will not be going to shut up shop. "That just plays into their hands. We

have to my to take them on." The out-of-

favour Sheridan is likely to complete a move

SUNDERLAND

league matches at Roker Park today.

Peter Reid, the manager, has spent much of this week in Sweden and hopes to introduce a couple of young strikers on trial next week. Like Wimbledon, Sunderland's

prime asset is team spirit. This should not,

however, obscure the worrying statistic that Reid's joint leading scorer, Michael Bridges, has just two goals to his name. LT

Fresh from the encouraging

Sunderland intend to end

Wimbledon's unbeaten run of

win at Everton last weeken

to Bolton this weekend.

It is not an easy time to be travelling to Anfield, according to David Pleat, the manager.

brief response as a definite "yes".

Joe Royle's list of pre-Christmas presents would not have included Nick Barmby going down with influenza, but it solves one problem for the Everton manager - who should be left out to accommodate Duncan Ferguson, Ferguson, having been omitted last week, came on as a substitute and scored, leaving no one in any doubt about his feelings. Tony Grant, who was on crutches until midweek after running into Paul Bracewell, has made a speedy recovery

BLACKBURN ROVERS

The clamour concerning Sven Goran Eriksson continues, but the smart money at Ewood Park is on the caretaker manager. Tony Parkes, keeping the chair warm until the end of the season. Parkes

has had three separate spells in charge, but this present stint is the longest - six weeks. Given his results since succeeding Ray Harford, it would be no hardship for Parkes to be retained until the end of the season, especially as Eriksson would be available by then.

LEEDS UNITED

have had neutrals blanching. but it has lifted Leeds. "It's a physical game," Carlton Palmer told Leeds Clubcall. "Chelsea came wanting to play football and we didn't let them," he said. Middlesbrough can expect more of the same today as Leeds look for a

The win over Chelsea might

this season.

HOW THEY STAND

..... 16 34 15 31

15 29 15 28

23

Goal P Pts diff

+18

+13

third successive victory for their best run in 15 months. With John Scales at Elland Road yesterday for talks, Wetherall, Radebe, Paimer and Beesley will all be on their mettle.

CHELSEA

After that horrid affair at Leeds, the question looms: can all those expensive foreigners of English football? At Elland Road, Zola was marked out of the game. Di Matteo and Vialli disappointed Lebocut no longer looked dominant Now there is the alarming case of Craig Burley, the Scotland international, distressed at being forced out of the team by all those imports. Gullit, who most stirely start this game, cannot afford to lose men like Burley.

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester hit their first target for the season by reaching 20 points when they beat Middlesbrough on Tuesday night. When they went down two seasons ago they had just 14 by Christmas and their next three home games are all against sides below them, beginning with Blackburn this afternoon. Martin O'Neill, the manager, believes that 42 could be enough to ensure. survival but remains cautious. However, with a formidable work rate they are no longer relegation certainties.

COVENTRY CITY Chief casualty since Gordon

Strachan replaced Ron Atkinson at the helm is Kevin Richardson, the graft and grind midfield player who has amassed more than 550 appearances in his 17-year career. Richardson, 34 this week, has seen not a minute of Premiership action during -Strachan's brief reign but he refuses to contemplate a possible afterlife in the Nationwide League. "No way," he said. "If if ever looked like coming to that, I think I'd prefer to pack it in: "RK

LIVERPOOL

There could soon be hundreds of little Robbie Fowlers running around Antield Sched-uled for completion in September next year, the Liverpool football academy will be based on the Ajax model. and will include training pitches, schooling. provision, even a hotel on the 55-acre site in Kirby, all costing around £8 million. Children as young as eight will be invited to the academy to hone their skills, and young players will be invited to join from all over the world. The future looks red. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

United's win in Vienna pleased the shareholders and the accountants as much as the players and fans, and in the aftermath Alex Ferguson, the manager, and Martin Edwards, the chairman, both contemplated adding to the squad. Ferguson, however, is not being rushed. "Price here are going through the roof, which probably means looking to Europe," he said, "and getting players who aren't cup-tied for Europe is a problem. We're assessing the situation." PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

No Emerson (still on his latest walkabout) and no Juninho (injured) so Middlesbrough must arrest a run of ten league games without a win with no Brazilian

1 Areenal::

2 Liverpool...

Wimbledon

Tottenham ...

Sunderland

West Ham....

18 Blackburn ...

Middlesbrough.

assistance. Leeds are unlikely to prove submissive today and with the underrated Alan Moore also injured, resources are stretched. How Bryan Robson, the manager, must wish he could turn back the clock to Leeds's visit last season, when it coincided with Juninho's debut and the promise of imminent Teesside glory. LT

NEWCASTLE UNITED

So now we know what managing a side as unpredictable as Newcastle is like. The mood swings are unbelievable at times," Kevin Keegan admitted this week. What he did not make clear was whether it was to himself he was referring, or his team. Drastic action is required in the league, but it could be provided on Monday evening against Nottingham Forest. Les Ferdinand returns, less than a month after a cheekbone fracture, and his record is enviable

NOTTINGHAM FOREST Frank Clark, the manager, has

denied that Ian Woan will be sold to raise the money to repay a £2 million bank loan by the end of the year. However, it is not certain that Woan will be recalled for the game against Newcastle on Monday. Chris Allen, the winger signed from Oxford over the summer, has given an extra dimension to attacks with his pace on the left side, Woan's usual position. Forest are creating opportunities, but Dean Saunders, with two goals from 15 games, must start scoring. RH

SOUTHAMPTON "I think we have the people in

the team who have the required battling qualities," Gracine Souness, the manager, said at Highbury on Wednesday. He admitted that they do not, however, have a forward to share the load with Egil Ostenstad, although Le Tissier, out today, may return earlier than expected. More important in the long-term, is Hampshire County Council's meeting on Thursday, when the club's new ground at Stoneham is expected to pass. its final planning hurdle.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

captain, thought his 55,000 computer would be in safe hands when he sent it to a. Berkshire firm to be repaired. Sadiy, it has

Gary Mabbutt, the Tottenham

since gone "missing", allegedly with many others, and is the subject of a police investigation. "I believe it was stolen," Mabbutt said. As if the club had not suffered enough embarrassment lately, the computer-losing company is none other than Hewlett Packard, the much-revered main sponsors of . . . Tottenham.

second Premiership victory outside London today, and will

WEST HAM UNITED Two years ago Manchester

United lost the title at Upton Park, but last season, Cantona's goal sparked the champions' ultimately successful pursuit of Newcastle United. The meeting tomorrow will be less decisive — like West Ham's finishing, in fact. There could be a recall for the unprolific Steve Jones as Harry Red-knapp searches for goals. "We have no excuses," Florin Raducioiu, one of the guilty men, admits. "We need to score, we need to improve, beginning on Sunday." KP

WIMBLEDON Wimbledon look for only their

DLWAW

LWDDW

TWOOL

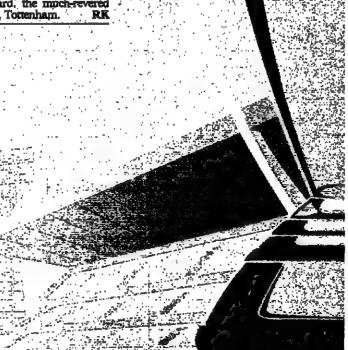
WCW/LI

LOODI

LWDDW

relish the chance to spoil Sunderland's homecoming party after their win at Everton. They may parade a new international: Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, discovered the Scotlish grandparentage of Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper, and hopes to confirm his eligibility in the new year. Meanwhile, stories linking Alan Kimble with Leicester are unlikely while Thatcher remains a long-term injury. NS

Pieporte: Brien Glanville, Peter Bail, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepenik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough



DERBY COUNTY TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: --. 2-1. 1-2. 1-1 3-0, --., --., --., --., --. HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL from): J Lukic, A Linighan, S Bould, A Adams, L Dixon, P Marson, P Vieira, N Winterburn, D Platt, I Wright, J Hartson, P Shaw, S Morrow, R Garde, R Parlour, M Rose, V Bartram.

DERBY COUNTY (from): R. Hoult, G. Rowett, C. Powell, D. Powell, P. McGrath, I. Stimac, D. Yates, J. Laursen, S. Flynn, D. Sturndge, A. Ward, A. Asanowc, C. Daily, R. Willems, M. Carbon, L. Carsley, M. Taylor,



LIVERPOOL Y SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-1 1-0, 5-1, 2-1, --. 1-1, 1-0, 2-0, 4-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

LIVERPOOL (from: D. James, J. McAteer, S.) Bjornebye, M. Winght, P. Bebb, N. Ruddock, S. McManamen, J. Barnes, M. Thomas, R. Fowler, P. Berger, S. Collymore, J. Radknapp, A. Kennedy, A. Warner.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from) K Pressman, P Atherton, I Notan, M Pembridge, D Walker, G Whitingham, B Carbone, A Booth, G Hyde, L Briscoe, O Trustfull, S Nicol, D Stefenovic, S Oakes, R Humphreys; R Bisnker, M Clarke.

LEADING SCORERS

13: i Wright (Arsenal) 9: F Ravaneli (Middles brough), A Sheerer (Newcastle United) 8: D Yorks (Aston Villa), M Le Tissier (Southampton) 7: G Visili (Cheises), L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), R Earle-6: G Speed (Everton), M Gayle (Wimbledon), E Ekoku (Wimbledon)

The official internet site of the FA Carting Premierance · is at http://www.fa-certing.com/



CHELSEA V EVERTON TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 0-0, ---, 2-1, 1-2, 2-2, 2-1, 4-2, 0-1, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP CHELSEA (from): F Grodas, D Petrescu, T Pheten, R Gullit, F Leboauf, S Clarke, A Myers, G Vialli, M Hughes, D Wise, M Duberry, D Lee, R di Matteo, S Minto, E Johnsen, J Morris, F Sinclair, M Nicholls, G Zola, M Colona

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, D Watson, C Short, D Unsworth, A Hinchcliffe, M Hottiger, A Kanchelstos, J Parkinson, A Grant, G Speed, G Allen, M Branch, G Stuart, D Ferguson.



MIDDLESBROUGH V LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: -, 2-0, --, 0-2, -- -, 4-1, --, --, 1-1. HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox. D Whyte, C Fierning, R Mustoe, M Back, P Stamp, C Hignett, F Ravaneti, C Morris, P Whelan, J A Fjortoft, C Freestone, B Roberts, M Summerbell.

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Keily, C Pairner, D Wetherati, P Beesley, L Radebe, M Ford, L Bowyer, L Sharpe, 8 Deane 1 Rush, A Yeboaki, R Wallace, M Jackson, I Harte, M Beeney.



WEST HAM UNITED V MANCHESTER UNITED



HONDAY

TICKETS: Sold qua 10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 1:1, 1-3,---, --- 1-0 --, 2-2, 1-1, 0-1

HOW THEY LINE UP WEST HAM UNITED (from): L. Mildesko, T Breacker, K Rowland, M Rieper, S Billic, J Dix, F Lampard, D Williamson, I Down, S Jones, M Hughes, S Lazards, M Bowen, P Futre, F Reduciou, I Dumitreetu, S Potts, J Moncur, I Bishop, H Portino.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from) P Schmeichel, D Invin, D May, G Palister, R Johnsen, D Beckhern, B McCleir, S Cantons, R Giggs, P Scholes, O G Solskjær, J Chlyff, K Poborsky, M Clegg, B Thomley, M Appleton, J O Kane, C Casper, R van der Gouss.



COVENTRY CITY V TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-3, 2-1, 1-1, 0-0, 2-0, 1-2; 1-0, 1-0, 0-4, 2-3. HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (trom) S Ogrtzovic, R Shaw, L Deish, P Williams, D Burrows, P Talter, E Jess, G McAllister, J Williams, J Saleko, D Dublin, N Whelen, K Richardson, B Borrows, M Hall, J Filan, P Ndtovu, W Boland, R Genaux, G Strachan, L Costello, D Huckerby.

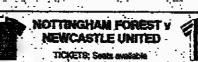
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, E Baardsen, S Carr, D Austin, C Calderwood, S Campbell, S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, C Wilson, D Howelfs, A Nielsen, J Dozzell, R Fox, R Rosenthal, E Sheringham, S Nessen, A Sinton, R Allen.



10-YEAR RECORD: 50, --, 3-1, 2-1, 1-1, 1-1, 2-0, 4-1, 2-1, 0-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, C Lundekvern, R Dryden, U van Gobbel, J Magilton, N Maddison, E Barkovic, J Dodd, M Catley, E Catansiad, S Charlion, G Potter, K Monkou, N Moss, S Basham,

ASTON VILLA (from): M. Oakes, F. Nelson, A. Wright, U. Ehlogu, S. Staumon, R. Scimeca, A. Townsend, M. Graper, T. Teylor, D. Yorke, S. Milosevic, J. Joachim, T. Johnson, S. Curcic, C. Tiler, G. Farrelly, M Rachel



10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 9-2, 1-4, --, --, --, --, --, 6-0, 1-1

. HOW THEY LINE UP NOTTINGHAIR FOREST (from): M. Crossley, A Fettis, D Lytte, A Mealand, C Cooper, N Jerken, S Chelte, S Pearce, D Prespe, C Bert-Williams, S Gentrill, C Allen, I Woen, K Campbell, D Saunders, J Lee, S Howe, B Roy, S Betherwick.

NEWCAST(E UNITED (from): P Smicek, W Barton, J Berestord, D Batty, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, F Asprilla, L Fordinand, R Blicht, D Ginota, S Histop, K Gilesple, S Watson,



LEICESTER CITY V BLACKBURN ROVERS TICKETS: Seeks available

10-YEAR RECORD: --, 1-2, 4-0, 0-1, 1-3, 3-0, --, --, 0-0, --HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Kelier, S Grayson, J Watts, S Prior, I Marshall, N Lennon, E Heskey, S Claridge, M Izzet, S Taylor, G Parker, P Kaarnark, J Lawrence, C Hill, S Campbell, K Poole: BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry, G Le Seur, T Sherwood, W McKinley, G Pitcroft, K Gallacher, C Sutton, J. Wilcox, L Bohlnen, G Donis, S Ripley, G Croft, S Given, D Duff,



SUNDERLAND WIMBLEDON TICKETS: Sents evaluable



HOW THEY LINE UP SUNDERLAND (from): L Perez, G Helf, D Kutoliki, M.Scott, A Metvitla, R Ord, D Kelly, A Risa, P Bracewell, K Ball, M Smith, C Russiell, M Grey, M Bridges, D Presce, S Agnew, S Aiston.

WIMBLEDON from): N Sulliven, K Cunningham, A Kimble, C Perry, D Blackwell, B McAllister, A Reeves, R Earle, V Jones, O Laonhardsen, M Geyle, E Bloku, D Holdsworth, N Ardiey, P Fear, A Clarke, M Hadord, J Euel, B Murphy.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

10.48pm EBC 1. Metetr of the Day (highlightm) 10am Sky Sports 1 Goals on Sunday 3pm Sky Sports 1 Ford Excert Super Sunda West Ham United y Menchester United (Res

nu usti : Edinburgh.

Tons Sky Spinis Ford Exert Monday right for Montaglism Forest v Naviceste United (Inte)

Maldini to sample new menu at game's top table

esare Maldini, the for-mer manager of the Italy Under-21 side. has been appointed manager of the full national team in succession to Arrigo Sacchi, who has abruptly returned to AC Milan. Thereby hangs a revolution. For Maldini, once Milan's uncompromising centre half, himself capped on 14 occasions, often as sweeper. is a catenaccio man.

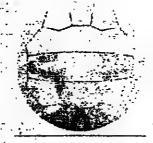
There has been no tactical continuity between his largely successful under-21 team and Sacchi's national team, wholly committed to 4-4-2, zonal defence, and something known in Italy as "pressing", which broadly means pushing up quickly to the halfway. line to deny space to the opposition. Maldini will have no warm-up matches in which to impose his preferred tactics on his team before they play England in the World Cup match at Wembley in

had lunch almost every day in L'Assassino, a restaurant long associated with AC Milan. Woe to whoever -expresses opinions which run counter to the club. On the day of the recent Milan-Internazionale derby, a diner rose to his feet and, as he left, addressed me "I hope you're wrong about Milan, when you say you

think they'll draw." In the event, draw they did, I-1, though they squandered a glut of chances to win. Maldini presides, a gaunt, authorizative presence over the long table at the top of the main room. Those who sit with him, mostly prosperous and middle-aged football lovers all, are happy to delve into. At the foot of the table sits,

as -Maldini proudly points out, a silent old fellow in his 90s. He eats slowly and methodically, all energy con-sumed by digestion, for he CESARE MALDINI

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL



By Brian Glanville

never says a word. Maldini himself speaks freely and mince his words. When he recently watched Newcastle United play in Metz, he pronounced himself amazed

by their defence which, he says, could have given away pointing form has been a mystery. For so long one of

He is now 64. He has never managed a club, has won European titles with his under-21s, - they are the reigning champions — but seems to have lost his chance of succeeding Sacchi when his under-23 team went out disappointingly early in the Olympic tournament in the United States last summer. .

Perhaps the best advertisement for his methods is Paolo. his son, a handsome young man who figured prominently in the past two World Cups, both as an attacking left back of pace and brio, and as an accomplished centre back; though not as libero, the position that his father often

Born in Milan - Cesare is from Trieste - Paolo was coached by AC Milan from boyhood and it is his only

the most reliable and influential figures, with Milan and Italy, he has been strangely erratic, and only now is he beginning to recover form. It was notable, in the Milanese derby, that he seldom embarked on his overlapping runs. A crisis of confidence, or so it seemed, but nobody will protest if Cesare keeps him in

the Italy team. If Cesare seems long in the tooth for his new role, it must be said that he has no obvious rival. The name of Dino Zoff had at first been canvassed. Zoff played 112 times for Italy, captaining them to their World Cup triumph in Spain

He has managed Juventus and Lazio, whose president he now is, a man of infinite, quiet dignity but without the dynamism of Enzo Berzot. A fellow Friulana (from the northeast of Italy), Berzot managed the



Cesare Maldini: committed to introducing catenaccio

1982 team and Cesare has been his pupil. The only other possible choice was Nevio Scala, deposed last summer as manager of Parma after seven years; but there seems

leading managers prefer to work, most lucratively, for clubs, either at home, like Marcello Lippi, of Juventus, or abroad, like Fabio Capello, now at Real Madrid, or Gianni Trapattoni, at Bayern Munich.

Sacchi's departure from his £800,000-a-year job will not be mourned by supporters or media. Though Italy, under his aegis, reached the final of the 1994 World Cup and lost it only on penalties, he has never been loved or admired. Gianluca Vialli, now at Chelsea, excluded from that 1994 World Cup, remarked subsequently that Sacchi and Antonio Matarrese, his protector, then the president of the Italian Football Association, were "the two most unpopular men in Italy".

Sacchi's return to Milan started badly on Wednesday, with European Cup defeat by

an amateur. Fusignano, his local club, told him that he would never be a player: he might as well coach the youngsters. This he did with increasing success, remarking in later years: "You don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey."

"Flair" players made Sacchi uneasy. His relationship with Roberto Baggio, whose goals took Italy to the World Cup final, has been famously fraught. So has that with Beppe Signori and Gianfranco Zola.

Last summer, in Euro 96, Sacchi made the ludicrous mistake of omitting five of his main team against the Czech Republic, lost, and saw Italy eliminated.

Cesare Maldini may miss those happy lunchtimes at L'Assassino. Managing prime donne of Italy's top team is not the same as managing the

FOOTBALL

Winterburn and Wright escape action on charges

BY RUSSELL KRMPSON AND PETER BALL

IAN WRIGHT and Nigel Winterburn, the Arsenal players, escaped punishment yesterday after appearing, separately, before a Football Association disciplinary commission. Wright was found not guilty of bringing the game into disrepute, but warned as to his future conduct, while Winterburn was cleared of a misconduct

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The pair are thus free to play for Arsenal, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, against Derby County at Highbury this afternoon. However, Dennis Bergkamp, David Seaman and Martin Keown will be missing, because of injuries, as Arsenal attempt to stretch their three-

Wright and Whiterburn were charged by the FA after incidents arising from the 4-1 victory against Sheffield Wednesday in September. During the match Winterburn was obscene gesture at a group of Wednesday sup-

Subsequently, after David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, had made critical remarks about Arsenal's tactics. Wright called him "2 pervert". He later apologised to Pleat and his family.
Steve Double, an FA spokes-

man, said yesterday: There

will be no further action. Ianhas been warned as to his future conduct and must be careful about what he says in

Wright was pleased with the outcome. "I have been treated fairly again by the FA," he said. "I'm pleased it's all over, for me and Mr Pleat. Of course, I do regret what I said. It caused a lot of distress for him and his family. When you

Ray Harford, who resigned as manager of Blackburn Rovers, the Premiership strugglers, has been made assistant to Steve McMahon at Swindon Town, of the first division, with the aim of improving their away form.

see it in print, you realise how bad it looks." Manchester United, mission accomplished by reach-

ing the European Cup quarter-finals, can now concentrate on the Premiership for three months. Arsenal, Liverpool and the rest of the title challengers should beware.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has always maintained that the aim was to keep in touch in the league until the Champions' League, the first stage of the European campaign, was out of the way Then, and only then, would

their attentions turn to the Premiership; against West Ham United at Upton Park

"December and January is an important period for us now," Ferguson said. "It gives us an opportunity to focus and concentrate on getting some consistency back into our game in the league. There may be a bit of hype in the weeks before the game with FC Porto [United's next European Cup opponents), but that's a long way off. We've got a good bit of time now to concentrate on the

United attempt to begin their charge without Roy Keane and Nicky Butt, their key competitors in central midfield. They were injured in the 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna on Wednesday, with Keane expected to be out for a month with a gashed leg.

Conflicting reports again emerged yesterday over the future of Emerson, Middles brough's troubled Brazilian midfield player, who is still in Rio de Janeiro apparently comforting his sick wife, Andrea. Gianni Paladini, Emerson's adviser, said: "His wife isn't well and he is prepared to give up football. At the moment he doesn't care whether he plays again or not."

However, another report suggested that Emerson could soon return to Teesside. He was quoted as saying: "I intend to return to Middlesbrough with my wife, possibly next week. I can't leave at the moment as she is bed-ridden and depressed."

Alex Miller, the former manager of Hibernian, has been appointed assistant to Gordon Strachan at Coventry City, who play Tottenham Hotspur at home today. Steffen Iversen, Tottenham's £2.5 million signing from Rosenborg, of Norway, makes his debut

Dave Merrington, the former Southampton manager, and John Byrne, the former Ireland striker, have emerged as frontrunners for the vacant managerial job at Brighton, the Nationwide League's bot-

Boreham Wood double act gets results

Walter Gammie charts

the rise of a small club in Hertfordshire

once near bankruptcy who has a coaching

/ hadge with a manage Who is an accountant and you either have a recipe for trouble or a model for a new form of progressive football club. For Phil Wallace and Bobby Makin, the chairman and manager of Boreham Wood, respectively, the success of their partnership can be judged by the fact that the

pearance in the second round of the FA Cup today, away to Luton Town Wallace joined the dub after taking an FA coaching

club, from the Icis League,

will be making its first ap-



pressure" from his work running the L& M Food Group. He arrived in August 1990 to assist Trevor Harvey, the manager, by December, he was chairman.

The club was more than £100,000 in debt and losing £600 a week. "It didn't have anywhere to go," Wallace said. "The bank manager was pressing at the door. I was asked to get involved and said: 'I'll do it for three months, get it straight and then I'm away again."

Six years later Wallace is

still there. "The financial side of the club is such that, if I walked away, it would contin-ue to do well even if it would miss a bit of my drive," he said. "The satisfaction comes from getting the club to ruake

Wallace's initial cash input helped to clear the debts, his energy to ensure five successive years of profit. Boreham Wood lie in Arsenal's catchment area and crowds are among the lowest in the Icis League premier division, so outside revenue is vital Wallace built an artificial pitch, refurbished function rooms and appointed a commercial manag

Last season the club went into the final day as possible champions, but finished third, behind Hayes and Enfield. There was an increase, if hardly a surge, in atten-



Makin, with hands on the FA Cup, Wallace and Harrington, the captain, hope to make club history at Luton

dances, which Wallace puts down to the 13 previous seasons, spent in the first division, that "left a whole generation of youngsters with

no reason to come to the club". Two years ago he made Alan Carrington, the assistant manager, football-in-the-community officer, which has brought the club into the schools and children to the

arrington had been instrumental in bringing Makin to Wallace's attention when the chairman made the painful decision to part with Harvey four years ago. Carrington was helping at Boreham Wood after his days as assistant to Makin at Dartford ended abruptly when the club folded.

Makin, a true non-League warrior, wrapped up a career of more than 1,000 matches in 22 years with six matches at the age of 39 to finish his first season at Boreham Wood. He wanted to get his message across from closer quarters: five wins and a draw proved the point.
"The next season we won

promotion and since then we've had our highest league position, our farthest run in the FA Trophy and reached the FA Cup second round for the first time," he said. "If we striker, said. beat our first League club, it

Yet Makin has been wearing a frown most of the season. Amid unbroken cup success, league form has been poor and fourteenth place is well short of expectations. When we won at Rushden 13-2 in a first round replay it

will be another major

was the first time I'd seen him smile," Terry Robbins, the

Robbins, 31, finally achieved his goal to play in the Football League last season — 18 appearances, two goals, with Barnet - but cut short a two-year contract to return to the City. Impressed as he is by Makin's dedication. Robbins is in awe of his chairman's commitment

"He's football mad," Rob-

at training, watching what's going on." Wallace said that, at 47, "creaking bones" forbid anymore active role.

What would send Makin into raptures would be a victory over Luton followed by a third round draw against West Ham United. "I work for Dagenham Motors, and they sponsor West Ham," he said. With that happy thought, it was back to work.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

Dent aims to join idle rich

NICK DENT, the Ashford Town striker, eats, breathes and sleeps football, with the emphasis firmly on sleeping, but, if Neil Cugley, his manag-er, can borrow Vinnie Jones's ghetto blaster and blare In The Mood around the Vicarage Road dressing-room today, Dent might wake up for long enough to give Ashford, the Dr Martens League premier division club, a tilt at removing Watford from the FA Cup and secure a place in the third round.

Dent was once with Bristol City, but he could not cope with either full-time training or Joe Jordan, a disciplinarian manager. He has been airily described as the Eric Cantona of non-League football.

Surprisingly, Dent, the Ashford leading goalscorer. was the only man to miss when his side beat Dagenham and Redbridge on penalties in an away replay last week. Cugley believes that his underachiever can surprise Watford, however, along with Jeff Ross, the winger, Matt Carruthers, the Royal Ma-

Steve Actesion on a sleepy town's attempt

to emerge among the

FA Cup big names

rines forward, and Paul O'Bri-

en, the defender. Work appears to be a grey area with Dent. "He does as little as possible; I think mainly he's known as a professionbed-tester," Cugley said. "He doesn't like to get up too early. Well, that's not quite fair, he tries to get up in the hours of daylight, but doesn't always find it possible.

For a manager, he's frustrating because, at times, he simply doesn't work hard enough; but he does remind me of [Matthew] Le Tissier. You know, that drifting role and suddenly he thumps one in from 30 yards; our crowd love him - and, despite his work-rate, I wouldn't swap him for anyone, he's class. His first touch is excellent and

Groves Sit by Jean ou retain Chocolate Brown ob file and environmental true and

Dent, 28, signed professional forms ten years ago, but did not progress, drifting off to Yeovil Town, Poole and, eventually, Ashford, after a spell in Hong Kong.

"I am hoping to show Wat-

ford a thing or two," he said.

"The bigger the stage, the bigger the player, they say, and I do like the big games." Cugley is Ashford's only full-time employee, supplementing his income by running football fun weeks for schoolchildren. He has a wealth of FA Cup experience. however, even if he has never beaten League opposition ei-

ther as player or manager in

five attempts, the last chance

coming two years ago when

Ashford lost to Fulham in a Ashford - average gate 600 expect to take 4,000 supporters to Watford for their first FA Cup second-round tie since the 1960s, "and I believe we can win", Cugley said. Even the local council are excited enough to have given us £1,000 for new blazers, ties



RACING 41

O'Dwyer on course to continue his rapid progress

SP()K

BASKETBALL 43 His Airness still

graces court of rich and powerful



SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996



Ahead of the pack: Rob Andrew will be hoping to uphold the Barbarian tradition of running rugby when he captains them against an Australia XV at Twickenham today. Yesterday a group of willing pupils from Grey Court School, Richmond, arrived at Rochampton to give the former England stalwart a taste of what to expect from the Australians. Photograph, Marc Aspiand. Preview, page 44

Lloyd tries video tonic to lift team's spirits

Atherton's injury adds to England's worries

ENGLAND'S cricket tour of was anticipated as a moraleboosting mission has been plagued by illness, a misguided work ethic and two bewilderingly heavy defeats at the hands of minor opposition.

Yesterday Michael Atherton, the captain, received two injections in his lower back in an attempt to relieve chronic pain and keep alive hopes that he can yet turn the team's fortunes around. Nobody involved with the England side underestimates the importance of Atherton to their success, not only as captain but also as leading batsman who, time and again, forms the rock to which they cling.

Atherton will stand down from the one-day match against Matabeleland in Bularesume his place on Tuesday for the four-day game against them in the last fixture before the internationals.

He received the same treatment - two injections either side of the sacroilliac joint — 18 months ago, before the Lord's Test against West Indies. It is. designed to increase his mobility, clearly restricted over the past few days to the detriment of his batting. His scores on the tour have been 0, 2 and 7.

Before his medical appointment Atherton faced some gentle throw downs in the nets as England practised at the Mashonaland, which has raised doubts about the quali-

that there had been no diminution in Atherton's contribution because of his medical problems. "The captain's inmiraculous, considering what he is going through," Lloyd

international captain can do without. People have criticised him in the past for his body language and posture but there is nothing he can do about them [because of his back trouble]."

between England's tentative



David Lloyd, the coach, said put is absolutely first class and the part he has played is

"He has had problems an

Lloyd conceded that there had been a stark difference

tained five amateurs but self-belief and desire that their

Part of England's problem is that they have been slow to adapt to Zimbabwe's climate and culture, and especially the slow pitches. On a slow but true surface. England were dismissed for paltry totals of 197 and 180 and several batsmen were out to tame shots against the apparently innocu-ous medium-pace bowling of players such as Gary Brent. Of equal concern is the form of the seam attack, which has consistently failed to bowl the

right length for the conditions. Lloyd nevertheless defended the decision to let the players rest for two months at the end of the English season and prevent them from playing any cricket during a pre-tour get-together in Portugal. "I'd

do it all again." he said. Lloyd hopes that the anger and disappointment of their poor start will have a positive effect on the players. There are only 14 in the party and the management has already hinted that the team beaten by Mashonaland is close to its

As for the Zimbabweans they are unlikely to be inlied into complacency by their early successes. It has given them an important edge, but it is one that they will need if

The result on Thursday was greeted with delight among the local population. Shortly after the match finished, the chairman of the Mashonaland Cricket Association, which hardly possesses the deepest coffers, announced its victorious players would each received a bonus of ZIM\$1000 (about £65).

"This is a great result for us," Don Arnott, the chairman the Zimbabwe Cricket Unon, said yesterday. "It is significant that, having only played England in one-day matches before, we showed here in a four-day match that we have the resources to cope and remain competitive." Lloyd did one other thing to

lift the spirits of his players yesterday. He played them videos of their best performances against some of the world's top players. That's you lads; you were done by Gary Brent," he told them. "We are better than they are."

Lloyd is right, of course. England do possess the better players. He knows that, his players know that, and so do the Zimbabweans. The problem is proving it when they get out in the middle. Time is running out

Diary, page 20 they are to create further upsets. They were indeed wise

Leading article, page 21
Hollioake takes lead, page 42

Confident Graham tips Scales to sign

By DAVID MADDOCK

LEEDS United have agree a £2.7 million fee for John Scales travelled to lunch time through to early evening, and expressed his satisfaction with the

progress of negotiations.
"We will talk further over the weekend, but I am happy with the way things have gone so far and, if everything goes to plan, then I will be happy to return to Leeds," Scales said.

Scales will become the first signing by George Gra-ham since he became manager three months ago. He might not have cost the club a penny. He joined Leeds as a teenager, but was released on a free transfer at 19, without being given an op-portunity to prove his worth.

"We have agreed the fee and had amicable negotia-tions." Graham said, "and, if he wants to come here, we will regard him as an impor-

will regard him as an impor-tant signing."

Regi Blinker, the Shef-field Wednesday midfield player, had his global sus-pension lifted by Fifst, the sport's world governing body, yesterday. He will be in the Wednesday starting line-up at Anfield today. However, Blinker was fined almost £36,000 after being found suilty of contra-

being found guilty of contra-vening regulations preventing players from signing contracts with more than one club.

Henman's journey into the unknown reaps rich reward

FROM ALIX RAMBAY IN MUNICH

TIM HENMAN could round off his year with the biggest payday of his short termis career today and, with luck, learn one of the most important lessons. Win or lose in the Grand Slam Cup semi-final against Boris Becker, lenman will end up considerably richer than he was on Tuesday morning when the also know what it is like to play a big-money, high-profile match in front of a largely hostile crowd.

The Olympiahalle here holds 11,500 spectators and Becker is the local hero. For the past three years he has made Munich his home and, as one of Germany's favourite sons, he is expected to win in style. Herman, too, carries more than a few expectations on his shoulders. Since he reached the quarter-finals at Wimbledon he has been seen as the saviour of the once beleaguered British tennis world. in June, though, his success was a novelty and every win was a bonus. Now success is expected and he has

a lot to live up to. Whatever happens today, Henman's world ranking will stay the same. There is only money and pride to play for in Munich as the official season ended two weeks ago when the top eight men in the world played for the ATP world championship in Hanover. Henman is at No 29 in the world but, as yet, he has not pitted his wits against the top men and, as he may find out today, the step up to the heights of the top ten is a huge one. He is only 22, but by the same age Becker had won Wimbledon three times and the grand old men of the tour, Becker could teach Henman a very sharp lesson.
For all Henman's progress.

he has yet to play the likes of Chang, Muster and Ivanisevic, and the match with encounter. Of the top ten, Henman has played only has beaten both of them this year, he has also lost to both. Against Sampras, the world o i, he has yet to take a set from him in two meetings.

The coming year, too, will be hard for Henman. He will no longer be the new boy on the tour and the top players will have seen what he can do and where his weaknesses lie. However, he and David Felgate, his coach, have their plan of action and Henman is not about to believe the hype that surrounds him. He

physically stronger and con-solidate upon the schieve-The top ten may be his goal, but it will take time and a lot of hard work to get there.

Defeat today would be softened by the consolation of earnings of \$431,250 (about £263,900) from his week's open the way to the \$1 million first prize. Munich has proved by far and away the most lucrative tournament for Henman; he has doubled his year's earnings here. His achievement at Wimbledon may have brought most prestige, but it was worth only a mere \$51,025. Six semi-finals in ATP events have yielded up to \$35,000 apiece and reaching the fourth round of the US Open brought in \$45,000.

Ivanisevic wins, page 45

the US Open once. Now one of Clubs condemned by one law for the poor

From Monday onwards, The demands of the local Virginia Bottomley, the safety committees won't Secretary of State for National Heritage, could be cast as doing for the football industry what she did for the National Health Service becoming the matron of clo-sures. The Football Trust,

ordered modernisation of grounds in England and Southand could not take place, meets to discuss the increasing damage done to its budgets by the National Lottery.

John Reames, one of the ten trustees, said: We will have to have a moratorium on all new fund offers. The loss of income into the Football Trust is so serious that 20 clubs at least, all of them in the [Nationwide Leaguel second and third divimeans to rebuild their stands. lor Report, must be completed

change and, as Thursday's dramatic television pro-gramme of Hillsborough reminded us, can't change."

What Reames is talking about amounts to the end of League football as this country without whose grants the has known it for the better part of a century. He

cites clubs such as "Those best Bournemouth, intending to move to a new stadium; able to cope such as Portsmouth, Reading and Port Vale, all have had of them desperatethe money ly reliant on the Trust for funding.

But this is where Bottomley's influence sits heavily on the sport. In January the doubling of the Nat-ional Lottery will bring an anticipated £80 million into the coffers; that is precisely the shortfall left in the building process towards safety and comfort which, after the TayRob Hughes says cutbacks may change the face of football as seen for a century

by the new millennium. The irony is that those best able to help themselves have had all of the Trust money, £139 million of it, towards new stadiums costing \$437 million. No complaints there: Lord Justice Taylor said that the greatest threat to public safety was at the top and the priority,

rightly, was to sweep away the crumbling Victorian edifices that threatened life and limb. However, even before Hillsborough, there was another harrowing tragedy in an English stadium — the fire at Bradford City that killed 56 spectators. Reames was there that day. He is chairman of Lincoln City, who were the visiting team in May 1985 when the fire swept through the old wooden stand. Being there changed irretrievably

rebuilding of the ground, the destruction of two stands horribly like Bradford's, the res-

urrection of a stadium costing £3.25 million — one third of it coming from the Football Trust. Building the ground is one of the reasons why we are still in the third division today," the chairman conceded. But the club has a future, it could be filling its 11,000capacity stadium at the turn of the century in a Football League diminished by, as he forewarned, 20 casualties.

The Government can be the final straw that puts a number of these clubs under." Reames said. "It was a declared policy of the Govern-ment to help to provide money, which derives in the first place from the taxation on football and the pools. Now, the priorities of Lincoln City; the Government is reneging Reames presided over the on Taylor; we were told in the

House of Lords two weeks ago that there would be no more monies for football and no extension to the Taylor deadline to complete all the modernisation by 2000."

Reames 'could' hardly be accused of crying wolf, or of self-interest or self-preservation. His little club has a total wage bill of E750,000 per annum. This is

less than the "gate" at a Manchester United match, less than the £1 million the top clubs hungrily anticipate from pay-per-view digital television.

million that FA Carling Premiership clubs each reap per season from hospitality-box income. Two worlds, but the Lin-

coins of football can live within the structure, must survive within it. Last month in the Lords, Lord inglewood, the Under-Secretary of State for

bluntly that football must help itself. The Government looks to the football authorities to ensure that the vastly increased revenue the game is now receiving from television and other commercial sources is distributed to enable clubs in all divisions to meet Taylor on schedule," he

'It can be Reames shakes his head. He has the straw put the roof over his own house in that puts order, he shares the duty of the Football Trust clubs under members and he is

much less than the average £2 Football League. And to him the future is strangled. He knows that the concept of premier clubs saving smaller ones to groom young players will be a non-starter if there is nowhere for them to breed and to play their youngsters.

> Premiership Guide, page 46 Maldini's moment, page 47

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SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996



Trouble in Hovis land

Monday evening as the mayor, Derek Beer, emerged from the cale he runs on the High Street. He crossed the road to join his deputy, Ray Humphries, who runs the hardware store opposite.

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nd do for you

The occasion was the illumination of the High Street. No fancy. aser displays or flashing decorations, just simple fairy lights strong from one side of the street to the other. Here is a street that takes a pride in itself: window boxes for the Britain in Bloom competition dur-ing the summer, traditional banting for carmival week in October, and now early December and

the month of Advent.

But this year's ceremony marked the advent of something other than the season of goodwill, for Tuesday. December 3, marked the final stages in the battle by the super-

market giant Sainsbury's for the soul of Shaftesbury:

The Second Supermarket Consing, which according to many will threaten the very survival of the High Street, has already driven a wedge between one section of the community and another, set coun-

he sky darkened over the ber, cousin against cousin and historic English market given rise to a storm of protests and accosations of vested interest, bias and bribery.

The fault lines that run through every community - of age, class, occupation - have become gaping cracks as residents, shoppers, livestock auctioneers, football and cricket club members all play their. The "natural picturesqueness and part in this small-town supermar-singularity of the town" to which he

with the town and district councils; cattle market, weekly street market. financial inducements, surveys, reports, opinion polis, objections and amendments, North Dorset District Council's planning services committee was finally to meet to consider the planning application by Chelverton West Limited on behalf of Sainsbury's:

To city dwellers who expect a choice of mega-stores, it may all sound like over-reaction. Yet this drama is being enacted in rural towns across the country, and arouses passions that amaze even those most intimately involved.

Perched 700 feet above sea level, this Saxon hilltop town, the Shaston of Hardy's Wessex, retains the attributes he described in Jude the Obscure, "one of the queerest and quaintest spots in England"

Moves to build a Sainsbury's supermarket in

Shaftesbury, Dorset, have driven a deep wedge between people in the town. Jane McCarthy reports

and "a breezy and whimsical spot". ket war, refers can still be detected. It is a After months of negotiations thriving market town with its own refers can still be detected. It is a and a High Street not yet dominated by the major chains, but still boasting small family businesses bakers, florists, a greengrocer, butcher, gunsmith and hardware

> The startlingly pretty Gold Hill is so unspoilt that it was used as the backdrop for the famous Hovis television commercial. Shaftesbury is a town where words such as millinery, hosiery, haberdashery and ironnongery do not seem out of place, nor do old-fashioned courtesy and personal service. You can expect George Anstee the baker to doff his hat in greeting, for Abbotts the greengrocers to mind your shopping while you to call into. the shop over the road, and for

fit the new batteries in your clock. As Mayor Derek Beer says: "I believe in Shaftesbury. People generally don't care about their towns any more, but Shaftesbury still has community pride and people care. They cross the road to talk to each other. It's very sad that people are so divided. These developers come down here and turn body against

body. They're devious."
There is indeed a perception among some people that Cheiverton's determination to secure a site in Shaftesbury is almost malevolent. Howls of derision greeted the Sainsbury's representative, Alison Peach, at a packed public meeting two weeks earlier in The store has been designed for the requirements of the town. We want to be part of the community." strong audience voiced objections

to the scheme that afternoon, and

for those people developers repre-

the town half when she claimed: Some two-thirds of the 100-

sent the enemy, the outsider set on increasing profit margins at the

expense of residents. They have Shaftesbury Town Council, the Chamber of Trade, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the Civic Society on their side. George Anstee spoke with grim determination for many when he said: "If we accept Sainsbury, this will become Sainsbury's town. Please stick to-

gether and fight to the death."

And fighting there has been: petitions (one conducted as early as January 1995 attracted the signatures of 2,000 objectors in a matter of days); leaflets proclaimed "Don"t go Insanesburys"; empty shop fronts were daubed with the slogan, "Make Shaftesbury a super market town, not a supermarket town," and column inches in the

local papers were devoted to a war of words between the two sides. In favour of the application is a group calling itself Supporting

headed by resident Hugh Woodhouse, to counter what he sees as "a vociferous minority who tend to be opposed to a lot of things. The biggest problem is that people who attend public meetings and write letters tend to be 55-plus. professional, well educated, articulate, and with the time to devote to such a cause. I looked around at the opening meeting, and saw a sea of greying and thinning pates, because everyone else was at work on a Tuesday afternoon."

ligned with him are three of the 12 local councillors, the football club, cricket club, and Southern Counties auctioneers, who jointly lease the land under discussions and who all stand to gain from a

successful bid. They claim that 70 per cent of the town supports their cause. The opposition lobby claims the real figure is nearer 17 per cent. Councillor John Freeman, however, insists that his pro-Sainsbury's stance is being guided by the people I've been elected to represent. To my knowledge I'm the only councillor who has knocked on people's doors to find out what they think. I don't

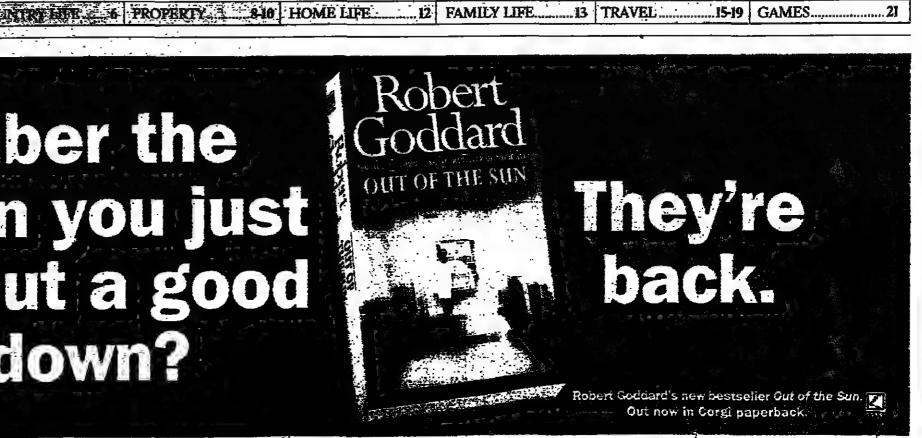
people can't understand what these plans mean. I have faith in the

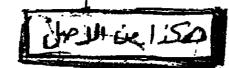
ordinary person." Understanding the plans as submitted by Chelverton is like trying to build on shifting sands. The exact site, dimensions, car parking arrangements, product lines and inclusion of a petrol station have over the months all been debated and redefined. The arguments hinge on the sale of amenity land within the town, the size of the development in relation to the needs of Shaftesbury, the increased traffic, the impact on the independent high street shops, and the location barely meeting the govern-ment's guidelines for "edge of town" developments.

The town council, while acknowledging the need for another, centrally situated fond store on an appropriate scale, has objected to the planning application and, as joint land owners with North Dorset District Council, has re-fused to sell the land. Their detractors note that since many members are town traders their views are self serving and letters published in the local paper have

Continued on page 2

Remember the days when you just couldn't put a good book down?





ants are not funny. It is only the word that is funny. Pants. Pants, pants, pants, pants. There, that's that done with. For, you see, they are never called

pants in shops.

They are called "classic trunks", "jockey thongs", "ranga briefs", traditional boxers". This is because, in order to sell vast quantities of them, the manufacturers have to call them something else, so as to stop us laughing, or being embarrassed, or doing anything else that might make the cleaving of us from our cash any

It is for this reason, of course. that they do not call them "smalls". either. They do not draw our attention to pants. In department stores you may see signs directing

"shirts, ties and socks". But there is never a big arrow pointing through the perfumery, past the food hall on the left, to a depart-

ment called "pants". Socks are okay. The ideal Christmas gift. You will even find a thing called Burlington Socks in a Tin (£9.99). As if tinning your hosiery made it a more acceptable gift at yuletide. But "Pants in a Tin"? No chance. And yet, you must give pants this Christmas. Because it is far too embarrassing, nowadays, for a man to buy them himself.

It is a similar embarrassment to that which attaches to buying condetas: the woman behind the till is going to be imagining what you look like in them. And she is going to find it funny. This situation has been exacerbated by you to "men's accessories", or the modern pant box. For the norm

SERIOUS SHOPPING

among designers is to illustrate with an impossibly toned middle section, filmed in classic homoerotic black-and-white porn pose. Rummaging through one depart-ment store's collection, I confess I

What if I had been seen comparing the boxes? In the Isle of Man you can still be hanged for less.

One Armani box had the man wearing nothing at all, advertising only what your bottom might look like after you had taken the pants off. The funny thing is that nobody with a body in this sort of shape could possibly afford the pants. One pair by Dolce & Gabbana cost £39.99, and was offered with

UNDERPANTS



BY CILES COREN

a matching "tank-top" at £69.95. Now, if you are going to spend £110 to sit around in your pants and vest, you will have to get a job. . And then you will have no time to go to the gym, pick up your

steroids, or have your chest waxed. What you get for your extra cash is a huge waist-band with the designer's name embossed all the way round. This is so that you can wear it pulled out of the top of your half-undone jeans emphasising both your fashion sense and glearning abs (this look does not work well with a suit). Then, of course, you have the words "Hugo Boss", say, pressed into your skin all day so that after work you can peel off to reveal designer love handles

The oid boxers versus Y-fronts debate, by the way, is over. The rage now is for knee-length ther-

mal longjohns. Yves Saint Laurent does a pair for £13.99 and Boss does a stretch cotton number (£36.99) with a misplaced pee-hole positioned somewhere around your pelvic bone.

The man in the picture wears it with a medium-sized haggis inside, but the traditional Scottish pudding was not included in the box I opened.

If not the long-legged effort then

you must have the briefest of briefs. Hom do a black pair with some of that lacy elastic netting on the top and fishnet effect featuring crocheted flowers over the pubic bone (£21.99). Don't look at me like that. They sell them in Selfridges. Hom also do a charming red micro brief for £10.99, and a sports model which features a man

engaged in what appears to be a cross between ballet and bareknuckle face-slapping. Sloggi is good, too. Scandinavia is the last word in pants - and the model even has chest hair.

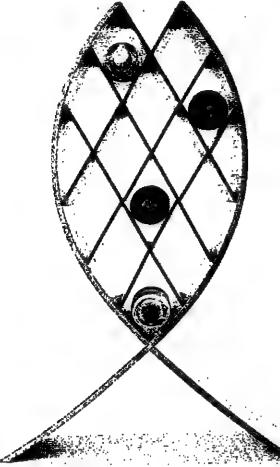
Daftest brand-name: 2(x)/ist. . The artist formally known as pants? These dubious people make a thing called a snap fly boxer brief. Frightening.

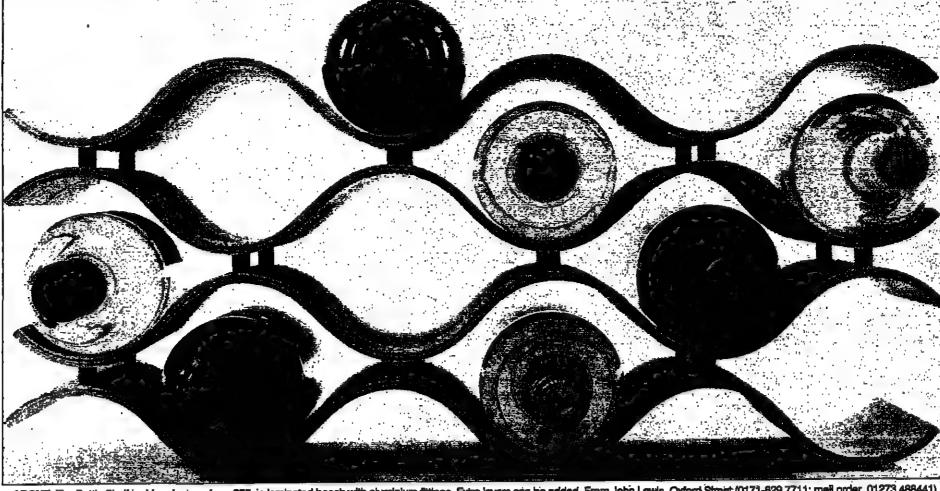
Perhaps it would be best to escape the designer jungle altogether, and head for M&S. the great pantropolis. Three cotton slips cost £7.50, and you can buy two briefs for £7 safe in the knowledge that they are "quick drying to keep you cool and dry".

At least they will know what you mean when you ask for Calvin Klein Lycra-mix, double-layered, pouch-fronted, leisure smalls.

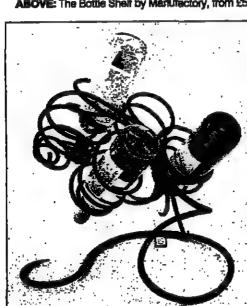
Corking decor

The more expensive the wine, the more carefully it needs to be stored — somewhere dry and away from vibrations and temperature fluctuations, Sophie Chamier writes. But this is the age of supermarket buying for almost immediate consumption. These decorative wine racks are fine for everyday wines you intend to drink within six weeks or so. They are designed to look good on display in the (sometimes steamy) kitchen or (periodically sweltering) dining room, but they also perform a vital function in keeping the bottles on their side or at an angle. For, as everyone knows, you should never store a bottle of wine upright as the cork will dry out, oxygen will get inside and you will end up with vinegar.





ABOVE: The Bottle Shelf by Manufactory, from £55, in laminated beach with aluminium fittings. Extra layers can be added. From John Lewis, Oxford Street (0171-829 7711; mail order, 01273 488441)





FAR LEFT: Drink Like A Fish wine rack by Jonathan Hoad, 9247 (p&p £15), in beach laminate with birch ply inserts (01923 855892)

MIDDLE LEFT: A five-bottle wine rack with black waxed finished steel, £85 (inc p&p), from Bisca Design (01439 771702)

LEFT: A six-bottle wine rack £19.95, from branches of Jerry's Home Store, 163 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 0909); Hampstead (0171-794 8622); Bentali's Centre, Kingston (0181-549 5393); and Harvey Nichols (0171-245 8251)

RIGHT: Curly metal ten-bottle wine rack, £16.95, from The Plea (0171-351 7(00). A popular design with a speckled finish



'Councils roll over for Sainsbury'

ahead. My heart has always been in Shaftesbury and that is where it will firmly remain." A member of his family. however, is firmly rooted on the other side of the fence. His cousin Paul Humphries is chairman of the football club which stands to gain if the

not known: certainly it has not been denied. Seen by many as the insidious side of big business which buys its way into peoples' lives planning applications sucthrough limitless resources. ceed. Chelverton on behalf of these inducements are de-Sainsbury has promised a fended by Paul Humphries: new enclosed pitch and a 200-When we came here in 1971 this land was not wanted by seater grandstand as part of a package swathed in secrecy anyone. There's been a lot of hard work in that time. It's an expensive operation running four teams and although there's a lot of goodwill in the town there has been little financial support from the councils. To compete in a

> imilarly the cricket club envisages a rosier future with the help of Sainsbury. Relocation forms part of a package that the team captain Guy Lowton resolutely defends: "We want to secure the future of cricket in Shaftesbury which at the moment is uncertain. We haven't as a club entered the great supermarket debate and the council has refused discussions with us even though developers have been talking

higher league we need an enclosed playing area and covered grandstand."

money has already changed

hands in order that Sainsbury

secures the option to build is

to us for at least six years." Every faction cites a different enemy and the accusations are many: councillors are undemocratic, traders are swayed by vested interest. football and cricket club members put their sport before their town, the public is misguided or reactionary, planning officials disregard the basic principles of government planning guidelines, and developers manipulate, make hollow promises and buy peoples loyalty,

Through all the mud slinging, the wrangling over details continues. Will three in ten supermarket shoppers really walk 300 metres to the start of the High Street after they have finished at Sainsbury's let alone 500 metres to its heart?



For: Paul Humphries, chairman of the football club

How will the road system cope with an additional 2,000 vehicles a day? Would trade be clawed back from other towns or would as protesters predict.

some 20 shops be at risk? As decision day dawned, private individuals were still noting precise measurements and timings with their stop watches, maps and compasses while Chelverton made 11thhour revisions in an attempt to placate their opponents. The "non-food items," the cause of great concern to Shaftesbury traders, would constitute 10 rather than 15 per cent of the store and the sales area would be reduced by a further 2,000

But gestures such as these do nothing to convince those who believe that their historic High Street will soon be laid waste by a supermarket twice the size of the existing central

square feet.

Somerfield store. Councillor Anthony Morris voices the suspicions of many: Sainsbury's will say or do almost anything to get what they want. It is nothing more than a show of paying some attention to public wishes without moving away from their primary objective of making money. All councils seem to roll over and lie down in front of Sainsbury's. I just hope that our future will not be determined by the weak-kneed

approach of officials."

When the decision came well into the afternoon and the assembled Shaftesbury traders, residents and councillors awaited their sentence, everyone was disappointed. There was no outright rejection or acceptance of the planning application but rather a vote for more time to consider. The



Against: his cousin Ray, deputy mayor, outside his shop

THE SUPERMARKET BOOM

duced in June this year, sites for building supermarkets fall into three categories: town centre, the preferred option; edge of centre (within easy walking distance of the main shops), such as in Shaftesbury; and - the least desirable - sites well served by public trans-port. Revitalising town centres is central to the policy. Developers apply to the district council and if planning permission is refused, they can appeal to the Environment Secretary. Since 1986 Sainsbury's has built 206 new stores of which 21 are in town centres. 47 are edge-of-town

SINCE guidelines intro-

and 138 are outside. Waitrose has opened 41 stores, some new and others in renovated buildings. Safeway has built 194 new stores in the past ten years, 49 per cent in town centres. 38 per cent in suburban areas and 13 per cent on the edge of a town. Tesco has opened 289 in the past ten years and hope to open a further 25 a year before the millennium. Asda has opened 66 new stores since. 1986 and plan nine more by next April. In 1980, Britain had 432 superstores (more than 25,000sq ft in size). By 1996 it had 1,034. Griffiths

Continued from page 1 questioned the integrity of the tion of household items to be stocked was a direct result of their influence. "Our mayor mayor and deputy mayor in particular. One woman wrote: has a café and does not drive a Our councillors should recar and our deputy mayor has member that they are on the a hardware shop."

Ray Humphries made an council as servants of the emotional response to these public, and to carry out the accusations at a special counwishes of the residents of cil meeting attended by more Shaftesbury, not to further than 30 members of the pubtheir own business interests." lic. "Yes. I do have an interest She also implied that the - my interest in Shaftesbury removal of the petrol station as a community and what and cafeteria from the revised Sainsbury plan and the reduchappens to it in the years

ONDON BEST HOLLAND & HOLLAND 🖷 Establichad London 1835 💳 31~33 BRUTON STREET, LONDON WIX 8/s.

Fake fur is flying on the catwalks as today's designers develop a fluff fixation, says Grace Bradberry

A stroke of genius for the foxy lady

ake fur trims and fluffy wools appeared in almost every designer collection for this winter. They ranged from the down'y to the algorous. the dowdy to the glamorous -from coarse fuzz to fake mink stoles. On every catwalk, a bit of fluff softened stark designs

or gave a retro hippy twist to an otherwise plain, 1990s look. Dolce & Gabbana showed fake fur stoles that took the models on a trip back to the 1950s, while Alberta Ferretti had little woolly cuffs and

The shaggiest of the shaggy dog stories came from Clements Ribeiro, a British design team, which used pure Tibetan lambswool in its bohemian-inspired collection. Tippets - fur neck wraps - were the most conservative option, used by Christian Dior.

Overall, the fake fur and fake wool accessories were among the wittiest and most wearable things that designers had to offer, and they have made a smooth transition to the high street.

Earlier in the autumn, when temperatures were hovering well above zero, they might have seemed frivolous, even self-conscious. But they are now beginning to look alluringly cosy. They are also a good way to

bring life and fun to blocks of cream, which could otherwise

pieces will still be because the cuffs and collars are detachable. The cream Desiré cropped cardigan, shown here becomes positively spring-like as does the Penn Wright & Monson sweater:

The key to wearing for or wool trims is to keep everything else simple. Do not mix a jacket with a skirt from elsewhere - instead, wear an entire suit.

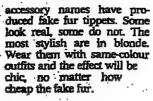
Trimmed cardigans are much easier to wear with plain skirts, though it is more direc-tional to mix them with patterns and go for the full bohemian look.

One of the disadvantages of wearing lots of fluff, however, is that it can end up wearing you. I chose this brown Karen Millen suit (below) because it is well-cut and the fur trims are so distinctive. But it was

the jacket can be worn partial- duced fake fur tippets. Some ly unzipped, creating the deep V-neck that is fashionable now and ensuring that the Afghan-look trim can be worn slightly looser. On days when you are feeling under the weather, and any excess fluff is irritating, it can be removed.

The stretchy Morgan jacket and the dress are both wedded to their fur trims. But in the case of the dress, the relatively wide and slightly low neckline keep the fur at bay, well below

If you are happy with the clothes you have, and them, then the best bet is





ABOVE: Peach tweed side-vent skirt, £45, by Jigsaw (0171-491 4484). Beige fur-trim chunky knit cardigan, £125, by Fenn Wright & Manson at Ferwicks



ABOVE: Cream fur trim cardigan, 275, by Desiré. Leopard print allk slip dress, 239, by August Silk Intimates, both from Ferwicks (0171-629 9161). RIGHT: Tan tweed jacket with blonds fur trim, £115, from Morgan (0171-436 5255). Copper Jersey a-line skirt, £98, by No Such Soul at Hype DF (0171-738 8538). Photographer: Steve Poole. Stylist: Deborah Brett. Make-up and hair. Nicky Taville at Teme Tanaka for Shu-Uemura. Model: Sarah Holland at Models One





Brown fake für bobble hat, 2119



Leopard fake fur coat, £299



Bobble hat, leopard coat and gloves all by Sam de Terán



Chocolate brown zip-front fur-trimmed jacket, £175, and matching trousers. £89.95, both by Karen

E Ur Dr On Tare



GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON

Q I have been given some seed of a scented hosta. Picase could you give advice on when and how to sow and care for them. — M. Mitchell, Fittleworth, Sussex.

This will be Hosta plantaginea, a whiteflowered species requiring great warmth to do well and flower. The blooms open in late afternoon and evening. The flower stems rise to about 30in, and the flower tubes themselves can be up to 5in long — much showler than your average hosta. Gertrude Jekyll recommended growing It in a tub stood outdoors for the

Hostas are easy from

seed. Store the seed in a cool place, then sow it in spring in a pot away from slugs, or in a row in shady ground with slugs controlled. Put the seedlings into pots when they have a few proper leaves, and when they are sturdy little plants bring them into the garden. They will take a few years to flower, but will make good foliage plants in the interim. Rich moist soil will speed them along.

I would like to buy some ground-cover roses for my husband's including birthday, 'Grouse' 'Grouse' (pink) and 'Nozomi' (pale pink and white). Please would you advise. - K. Staples, Marlborough, Wilts.

No rose provides real A ground cover, but with a good mulch they may remain reasonably free of weeds beneath. When you do have to weed through these roses, it is a miserable job. 'Nozomi' may be very pretty but its hooked thorns are victous. 'Grouse' romps off in all does the single pink 'Max Graf'. You might like the new 'County Series' of roses. 'Surrey' grows to about 2ft tall and twice that across. It is a frilly double pink, and was full of bloom in my garden in November. 'Kent' is a double, opencentred white 3ft across. You may have seen the pink 'Flower Carpet' advertised as being disease-free. It is, but it is also a very ordinary flower. White Flower Carpet' has much more style, but iust the same disease resistance. No spraying there. All are available from mail order rose growers.

Please advise me as to the best fertilisers for evergreens and coniferous trees. - K. McKeown,

A Most connected are undernanding tant is the depth of soil and rainfall. So unless you have desperately poor soil, no feeding is necessary. Nine times out of ten conifers look poor because the site is too exposed or they are short of water. Some withstand bitter winds, some do not. Broad-leaved evergreens are another matter. Evergreen oaks and Magnolia grandiflora and even holly will benefit noticeably

from a good rich soil and

generous feeding. So will the smaller laurels, privets

and viburnums. The best

fertiliser is a good mulch of

old rich compost.

In October we saw clumps of cyclamen flowering naturalised in told this was Cyclamen buy them in nurseries in the Cotswolds without success. Where can we obtain some, and will they grow here? — P. Tate, Ponteland,

Newcastle upon Tyne.

A They will certainly grow for you. Outdoor cyclamen corms are sold by mail order from specialist suppliers, or growing in pots from specialist herbaeous nurseries. They seed freely and a flowering corm in a pot will give you promise of many seedlings to come. Cyclamen have been taken from the wild in devastating numbers in recent years, and you should always be suspicious of corms larger than a 10p piece. (They can grow to a great size.) Dry corms are harder to establish, especially if they have been dried to desiccation, and I prefer to buy live plants. Flora and Fauna International, of Great Eastern House, Tenison Road, Cambridge CBI 2DT, pub-lishes the Good Bulb Guide, which lists suppliers who pledge "never know-ingly to sell wild bulbs".

Readers should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned

Jane Owen offers seasonal advice for gardeners from the best tree to buy to courses and talks



The range of Christmas trees grows by the year, and the claims get wilder, but some varieties are better at keeping their needles and most, so long as they are freshly cut, smell of pine

Metric Christmas everyone

THIS YEAR you will no longer be able to buy a 6ft Christmas tree. For the first time you will have to buy a 150-175cm tree and I'm sure they'll be more festive for it - Metric Christmas evervone.

Whatever the size, here is the annual Christmas tree sermon. If you want to buy a growing tree, do so from a reputable agent. Containerised trees are not necessarily alive but Sainsbury's Homebase, for instance, buys trees which have been potted a full year before

In the frame

HARLOW CARR botanical

gardens in Harrogate has

regular gardening courses and shows. The visitor centre

is currently exhibiting botan-

ical drawings, paintings and

show is free and, open until

February 16 at Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorks HG3 IQB (01423 565418).

MY COMMENT last month

that giant vegetables rarely taste good has brought a

challenge from Geoffrey Swaddle in Northumberland,

who says his giant cabbages

taste excellent. He sells the

seed at £3 a packet but you will need space for these monsters.

which can weight 57lb. The

seed, bred from the American

giant strain, Tex, crossed with

some British heavyweights

that Mr Swaddle will not

Big and tastv

they go on sale so they have had time to settle and start to grow. Keep the trees as far from heat sources as possible and in as cool a room as you can manage, whether or not the tree's apposed to be growing.

certainly better at keeping their needles and most, so long as they are freshly cut, smell of pine. If you give a tree a shake and some needles fall, don't buy it.

The range of trees grows by the year, and the claims get wilder, but some varieties are

name, should produce some

Scots Pine holds on to its long needles most successfully of all the trees mentioned here.

GARDENER'S UPDATE

you will never be able to visit it because it was made on screen with a programme called 3D Landscape V.2 Deluxe CD-(£39.95) which can "grow" my garden ten, 15 or 50 years from now. This ingenious software can tell where shade will fall at any time on any day of the year and it has a

selection of 2,200 trees, shrubs and flowers. It can call in information from the Internet and can take you on a 3D walk needs endless television this Christmas when you could be building gardens until the

days lengthen? The picture you make, how-

■ Blue Spruce is a pretty blue/green and has

minimal needle drop but is the most expensive

■ Norway Spruce is the traditional British

Nordmann or Caucasian for is a handsome

regularly shaped tree with a slight blue tinge.

Serbian spruce has a slightly silvery look

because the needles are pale blue underneath.

Christmas tree. Bad needle drop but cheap.

could smell only the usual pine. ever, is crude. Plants are shown by symbols of annuals or shrubs rather than actual sictures. And I found it had trouble working on an Apple Macintosh - my neighbour had to spend four hours

sorting out his computer after This is one of a collection of CD-Roms sold in Britain by Howit and Mowit Distribution, which let me try several of the programmes, including

.called Forever Growing Garden. I was baffled but I'm sure children would be able to handle it. Details from Howit and Mowit on 01380 848118.

Fair contest

with a regular shape and excellent needle

■ Lodgepole pine sometimes comes with cones on the tree but it is a coarser, less

regularly shaped tree than many and can show

■ The blue-grey White fir is claimed to smell of

oranges when the needles are crushed. Maybe

the ones I sniffed had been cut too long but ! \...

SOMETHING to look for ward to: a national plant fair on May 18, 1997. Now all you have to do is grow some plants for it. The National Trust is holding the fair at properties all over the country to raise £100,000 and plans to establish it as an annual event. Plants will be supplied by commercial growers and volunteers - that means you, so put aside a few extra seedlings this spring. Register as a grower and claim an information pack on 0181-315 1111 or send an SAE to National Trust

Woman's work

KEW.GARDENS is hosting a series of talks to celebrate 100 years of women gardeners. Gillian Cox will talk about the Great Vine at Hampton Court Palace on January 31, Sally Festing will lecture on Ger-trude Jekyll on March 28 and Laura Ponsonby will talk about the influence of Kew on

Tickets are £3 a lecture from the shops at Kew or from Sarah Oldridge, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

ERY WEEK WIDE FOR

Spring Plant Fairs, PO Box 39,

Bromley, Kent BRI 3XL.

women on March 21.

A CHRONICLE OF BIRD LIFE FROM THE PAGES OF THE TIMES Feather Reports by Derwent May

IN this evocative book, based on his popular weekly column in *The Times*, Derwent May chronicles
the ups and downs, the highs and lows of birdlife
in Britain. *Times* readers can buy Feather Reports
for £10.95, saving £2 on the normal price.

The author has long been regarded as an expert
on nature and the countryside, a memorable writer
in the great tradition of such naturalists as Gilbert
White and W H Hudson. He portrays the ways of
birds with the freshness of an observant eye and

birds with the freshness of an observant eye and the knowledge of an expert ornithologist

May has collected typical reports from his column and used them as a basis to provide a vivid account of the changing scenes for birds through out the year. He leads you month by month on a journey capturing the pleasure to be had simply

watching birds.

From the humble blue tit in the garden to the more exotic species fund of wilder habitats. Feather Reports has something for everyone, from the most ardent ornithologist to those who just enjoy the comings and goings of our feathered friends.

The book is illustrated by delicate black and white line drawings by the late Robin Jacques which accompanied the articles in The Times.

Feather Reports would make a delicitiful year.

Feather Reports would make a delightful pre-sent to yourself if you are already interested in birds and an excellent first book to anyone you know who has not been introduced to the mystery and magic of bird watching.



The Times Leather Reports Offer

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FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE 0990 134 459 (24 HOURS

FIND OF THE MONTH

THE Royal Horticultural So-CK, so my latest find isn't modern. It is about 4,000 ciety will stage its Christmas show on December 10-11 at years since sheep shears were first used but just a few since New Hall, Greycoat Street, they moved into the garden as Master Shear, which can be used for topiary, dead heading and edging. The blades are London SW1. Tinsel and artifilonger than secateurs, and the way they spring back into the cutting position makes them handler — and more cial flowers will be allowed among the horticulturally elite dangerous - than scissors. They are also more robust than exhibits and there will be a most garden scissors which, in this household, are mass of gardening presents including topiary. RHS memconstantly being snaffled by other members of the family for school projects. Nobody, however, would dare to take bers free, non-members £5 on these. Master Shear costs £14.50 including p+p from December 10 (Ham-7pm), non-Burgon & Ball (mail order, 01142 338262). members £3 on December 11 (10am-5pm). For information ring 0171-821 3000.

Fantasy land

prizewinners - but can any-one else vouch for the flavour

of vast vegetables? Mr Swaddle's tips are to set

the seed in the greenhouse this

Christmas and plant them out

in March in as much well-

your hands on. They do better

in a wide open space, apparently. He eats his lightly

boiled with gravy. For details ring Mr Swaddle on 01434 003212.

Tinsel time

YESTERDAY I made a third of an acre garden, single handedly, in about two hours. It has a series of formal yew and box pyramids and balls, a vegetable garden and an interesting mixed border dotted with architectural plants, a fountain, greenhouse and barbeque.

My garden is splendid but



PLANT OF THE MONTH

Lillum nepalense was brought in from the Himalayas about ten years ago and has a mysterious-looking dark green flower with a purple-brown throat. It is tricky to grow but worth it. Plant in humus-rich soil without a trace of lime. Like most lilies it needs fast-draining soil. It may take a year to settle and needs deciduous shade and plenty of water during the spring and summer. In late summer it blooms and, if happy, produces up to six flowers per stem. Bulb specialist Jacques Armand has a good stock at £2.35 per bulb. For free catalogue and further information contact the Nurseries, Clamp Hill. Stammore, Middlesex HA7 3JS (0181-954 8138).

How to keep tabs on your plants. Edwardian push-in tags are back in fashion

and essential if you want to avoid chaos

f you decide against using labels. you are asking for trouble unless you are obsessive about keeping a

labelled garden plan up to date. If you decide in favour, the choice is huge both in terms of materials and style. although garden centres rarely have a comprehensive range so it is worth going direct to a specialist. Alternatively, cut yoghurt pots into oblong strips for "push-in" labels or.

with a loop of wire, hanging labels for trees and shrubs. This is a cheap system although 1 dislike splashes of pure white in the garden and if, as some suggest. I push the labels deep into the ground so only the last centimentre is visible. I usually lose the labels altogether.

Wells and Winter has been in the business since the 1970s and manufactures many of the 32 different varieties of labels it sells. The family firm is run by Sir John Wells, the former Kent MP. and his wife, Lucinda.

Traditionalists will be delighted to hear that they have reintroduced the yeilow wooden push-in labels (£2.20 for 50) which I remember my grandpar-ents using. Mark them with pencil and they should last longer than plastic equivalents because, in frost and heat, plastic becomes brittle faster than wood rots. The company has tried to make plastic acceptable by dying it

standard push-ins to 9cm by 5cm rectangles suspended from metal legs. Prices start at 90p for ten in black or

At the cheaper end of the range, at £2 for 100 push-ins, there are labels in eight bright colours which are particularly useful for colour-coding dahlia tubers, or groups of plants - so long as you can remember what the codes stand for.

In the past 15 years Edwardian-style labels have become fashionable and Wells and Winter sells these in zinc from E5 for ten stick-ins. Aluminium oblongs with a pointed end to stab into the ground sell at £1.50 for ten. Stylish black labels - tags or stick-

ins (100 for £4.80) -- come with a scribbler for scratching the writing on and, for those with serious money and plant collections, there are the black and white engraved labels as seen in most botanic gardens, from £2.50 each.

Sir John's personal favourites are copper hang-ons (£11 for 100), simple copper oblongs which are attached to trees and shrubs with a loop of wire and are marked with a ball point. They weather to an attractive grey-green. The firm also sells fun labels, such as rabbit or hedgehog shapes on a metal pole to stick into the ground (£3.50).



Plain zinc (left) and etched zinc labels (both £5 for ten. Wells and Winter)

WEEKEND TIPS

■ Check pelargoniums and fuchsias brought indoors for the winter. Remove dead leaves; keep cool. light, and give the very minimum of water.

Strawberries grown in poin for early cropping will be sufficiently chilled by now and may be brought under glass.

Put into store for the winter any garden pots or ornaments which are not frost-proof. Lightly mow lawns with a lightweight rotary mower only in dry, windy weather. Pick flowering sprigs of winter jasmine, witchharel, Viburnum farreri and Viburnum tinus

Haven that came out of the woods

he beauty of a garden in full flush of colour and leaf often masks the problems that a successful gardener has overcome. Beth Chatto, the doyenne of creative problem solvers, is no slouch in that area and has not only overcome the difficulties of the site, soil and climate of her Essex garden near Elmstead Market, but she shares the solutions with her garden's visitors.

Her challenging two-hectare (five acre) garden has been since 1960 the breeding ground for her plant ideas and gardening techniques. She has coped with dry sites in full sun, damp sites in shade and sun. and lately with dry shade in the Wood Garden. At every turn, the gardens she has created are evidence of her success in choosing plants adapted to these conditions, that provide the perfect plant solutions for her garden problems.

Although hers is a large palette, the problems she encounters are the same as those found in any garden. "I hope that home gardeners can see that we are struggling with the same conditions that they have. In some areas we have great success, but it is often an uneven struggle and not every part of the

garden is perfect," she says.
Her latest problem-solving offering is in the Wood Garden, which she opened to the public for the first time this year. The wood, at the property's furthest border, was once her own private refuge, away from the nursery and the rest of the garden. Don't expect to find a totally natural woodland here, rather, what Mrs Chatto describes as "a wood garden where the shade is used to grow plants from woodland situations all around the temperate world, including Russia, Japan, Canada and France. I have combined them so that they provide a seasonal effect".

She began working on this area about six years ago, when storms culled some of the oaks and allowed more light in. There were still problems, however, because the soil was light and sandy, dried quickly and was not humus-rich. In

Problems with site, soil or climate? Beth Chatto has solutions



Beth Chattox creative doyenne

hot summers seemed at first to preclude the use of choice wood-land plants. There is some extra brigation into this area now, but even so the real moisture-lovers of. the shade brigade, such as rhododendron and blue Himalayan poppies, will not thrive here.

She came to the rescue though, with a list of plants that do fit the bill and will grow well in such a daunting environment. It is at its most colourful in spring and early summer but still has much to offer in autumn and winter when foliage, stems, berries and seedheads provide the dazzle of the display and autumn crocus and snow drops, in turn, make the ground level glow. Like other parts of her garden, the Wood Garden holds many lessons for fellow gardeners.

For Mrs Chatto, the essential at the start of any new garden project is the improvement of the soil. In this situation it involved the addition of bulky organic compost and, once the plants were in place, a surface mulch, mainly of crushed bark (straw is cheaper) was added beneath trees and shrubs. The mulch, which helps retain moisture, also acts as a weed deterrent and gives an attractive natural look to the overall finish. Even though

light in quality and Mrs Chatto uses plants like epimediums, vinca and heliebore, with good foliage and attractive spring and winter flowers, that do well in such soil. Overall, she favours plants with a wide variety of foliage, form and shape, so that there is always something to see, even when the flowers are over. In late winter and early spring, when the oak leaf canopy is non-existent, the main attraction is the ground-cover of snowdrops, species narcissi, dog's tooth lilies, hellebores and aconites.

In late spring and early summer. light, she switches on the wood's own lighting system using silver, gold and variegated foliage, to provide the spotlights and tall spires of white forgloves and martagon lilies, the greeny-yellow fists of various euphorbia and the feathery plumes of Aruncus dioicus

to act as glowing torches.

Then, too, fountains of honey-suckle, including Lonicera tellmanniana with its honey-yellow flowers and roses such as Rosa "Bobby James" and "Paul Himalavan Musk' in full flower, cascade from tree trunks, scenting the air and filling the view.

winter Fire provides red leaves in autumn and red shoots in winter, while Amelanchier lamarckii follows its springtime flowers with a blaze of foliage. Pink-tinged white berries are autumn ornament of the Hupeh rowan, Sorbus hupehensis. Providing flower colour at the higher levels are various forms of Japanese anemone, hugbane (Cimicifuga simplen and Kirengeshoma palmata, whose shuttlecock-like flowers hang in clusters. In any of Mrs Chatto's large-

scale plantings there are always many layers. The delight for the gardener of small sites, such as patios, basement gardens and back door areas, is that there are usually "take-away" plant combinations at the nursery that can solve the same

BARBARA SEGALL



Beth Chatto's wood garden at Elmstead Market is a breeding ground for planting techniques

FACT FILE -

THE Beth Chatto Gardens and Nursery, Elmstead Market. Col-chester, Essex CO7 7BD are open 9am-5pm, Monday to Saturday, March I to October 3L and 9am-4pm. Monday to Friday, November 1 to February 28. Closed Saturdays and Bank Holidays Admission £2, children free. Coach parties are welcome by appointment, but they must write first to the secretary in advance of the planned visit.

WHAT TO SEE

Granel Carriers This was once a car park but is now a well established garden where drought-resistant plants are on display throughout the

Large-leaved water-edge or marginal plants, such as Gunnera manicata and the American skunk cabbage, dominate the scene from spring

Mediterranean Gardens Near the house a collection of drought-resistant plants thrive, offering good colouring through

Wood Garden
At the furthest boundary of the property honeysuckle and roses gain the high ground via tree trunks, while at ground level snowdrops in spring and striking foliage plants in summer and autumn carry the show forward.

BUYING PLANTS

You can either buy direct from the wide selection at the nursery or mail order through the garden catalogue, Unusual Plants. There is a minimum purchase of £20 worth of plants plus postage and

GARDEN FRIENDS

Regular visitors can become Friends of the Garden and buy an annual season ticket, costing £7.50 (single) or £10 (double). which admits the ticker holde

CARDS AND BOOKS

Cards showing views of the various gardens are on sale and cost El.25. Also on sale are Beth Chatto's classic books, The Damp Garden, The Dry Garden, The Green Tapestry and Beth Chatto's Garden Noteboo recently produced video, My Garden, is available from the

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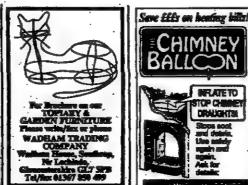
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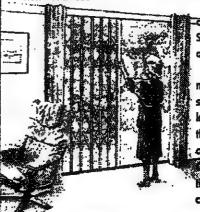


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Hedged in by the meddlers

always smile to myself when city-dwelling friends sigh dreamily and tell me how marvellous it must be to live in the country, "so peaceful, un-changing, eternal". I invariably nod in agreement. Not that I agree, but to shatter their dreams would be as criminal an act as telling a five-year-old that Santa's favourite reindeer was not called Rudolph.

So we come round to the stiffneck season again, brought on by metropolitan Christmas parties where those of us who have nodded in agreement all evening at a barrage of billing and cooing about our imagined lifestyles return home and wonder where this idyli might be found.

There are indeed joys to be derived from a rural life, but peace and permanence are not among them. The changes taking place in almost any aspect of rural life, brought about by what are commonly known as "policies", are every bit as hasty and reckless as those inflicted on towns and cities, The difference is that urbanised areas accommodate them and adapt, rural areas just suffer.

Let us take two typical cases, both of which appeared in the letters you have sent me. They show how changes, which to a city dweller would be part of daily life, have irrevocably destroyed not only parts of the countryside but the lives of individuals.

Susan Palmer, writing from Berkshire, tells how a change in the tree-planting subsidy has affected her. "A change ... from softwood planting to hardwood planting means hundreds of acres of soft woodland have been cleared and foxes, rabbits, muntjac and squirrels have all fled to find new homes. This has meant death to anything outside such as chickens, lambs, small pigs and garden produce."

I suppose if you are a politician. sitting round a table (hardwood) in an urban European setting, there are cogent reasons for switching wood production. And if you are a forestry owner, there is good commercial sense in sending in the arubbers and removing millions of trees. But if these were urban decisions involving the felling of, say, shopping precincts to make way for office blocks, there would be a long period of inquiry, a government inspector's report and a swift period of demolition followed by a frenzied rebuild. It would have been a disruption, a scar on the face of the city for a while, but it would heal, it might also be reversed one day. The countryside does not snap out of it



Rural idyil: the policy in the 1960s and 1970s was for hedgerow removal. Those that have returned will take years to attain their former glery

so quickly. Whereas the faces of towns and cities can be changed at a rate restricted only by the setting time of concrete, the countryside can, at best, take an age to get over

In the comparatively short time that I have lived here (14 years now) we, have been through numerous upheavals in agricultural policy, all impinging upon the landscape, wildlife and our life. Hedgerow removal was the sport in the 1960s and 1970s, prompted by "policy". It is no longer policy, but few of the hedgerows are returning and those that are will not achieve their

former glory for a century or more. Then there was what we thought was a good policy to encourage the preservation and establishment of meadows and grassland. That was fine, until BSE (the indirect result of another policy) meant the stock were culled; so now I guess the

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meadows will ploughed up.

Various policies of subsidy on crops such as linseed and oilseed rape routinely change the appearance of the fields, which would be refreshing were it not for the certain knowledge that each crop brings with it a new. determined chemical regime.

Then there is the stop-go policy of road building. One local farmer with a thriving shop selling the best bread for miles around sold up on confirmed rumours of a bypass. It was cancelled a counie of weeks ago in the Budget. As for weird setaside, how long will that last?

Random and unpredictable upheavals forced Stephen Thomas out. He lived near a cathedral town

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in Kent. "Behind me lay 146 acres of orchard, and in front of the house were several hundred mainly arable acres bounded by hedges. By the time I left, my single acre of orchard was the only one left," he

writes. This has been

widespread in apple-

growing regions of Europe: it was a subsidy to grub out fruit trees to curb surplus. A typical policy - good on. paper, lousy on the land.

He goes on: "As the years went by, the plough got nearer to the perimeter of the field in front of my house. Once, some of the road was turned over as the tractor driver sought to cultivate the maximum acreage. Bridleways went the same way. The hares disappeared, fewer

greenfinches formed their squadrons in late summer. Rows of alders were hacked down and grubbed out this summer." Mr Thomas has now gone to live by the sea, on the principle that at least they cannot plough that up. The countryside has always been

changing, but now the pace is so great it cannot keep up. And although farmers and landowners are often blamed, they are not the real culprits. Except in a small number of cases of determined vandalism, they are financially driven, of necessity, and respond only to policy. I dread the coming election because there will be an endless churning out of new poli-cies. I can confidently predict that they will sound terrific. On paper.

Readers can write to: The Times Countryside Campaign, c/o Weekend The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

FEATHER REPORT

Wrong time of year for romance

IS IT winter or is it spring? One morning last week I was passing a large lake when I heard the typical clicking sound made by great crested grebes when they are courting. I looked out, and there-were a couple of grebes in the middle of a full spring courtship display. They were facing each other, necks held erect, and waggling their heads seductively as they looked past their sharp beaks into each other's eyes.

The bizarre thing was that they were in complete winter plumage Normally when they court each: other in this way they have rich orange ruffs that tremble as they shake their heads. But these birds were in their black and white striped winter guise, without a trace of a ruff to be seen. No doubt the mild weather at the beginning of last week had encouraged them.

Otherwise, the birds on the lake had more of a wintry character, There were about 20 cormorants sitting on a raft, some holding their wings out to dry like washing on a line. These are winter visitors from the coast.

From time to time one would drop into the water on a fishing expedition, and an interesting epi-sode developed from one of these sorties. The cormorant came up with a small, shining fish and instantly a herring gull that had been coasting by started hovering above. It had seen the fish and hoped to get it, and hovered as professionally as a kestrel might have done. The cormorant tossed the fish up, and down once or twice, and the gull must have been optimistic about stealing it. But being wary of the cormorant's dagger-like beak, it lowed the fish in a gulp and sank underwater again.

Another winter visitor swam out. from behind an island - a drake goldeneye, instantly distinguishable by the round white checkpatch on its green head. It was a long way out, but its bright yellow eye was clearly visible — and when a chestnut-headed female swam out to join it, her gleaming eye was just as conspicuous. They dived and disappeared again and again.

THE OTHER notable bird that morning was a water rail. They are found here all year round, but their numbers are swelled by migrants from the Continent in autumn. They spend most of their time lurking in the reeds, but with larger numbers about and many of the reeds battered down, this is the time of year to see them.

This bird suddenly appeared climbing over a thick wodge of brown reeds at the edge of the water. I had a wonderful view of its long red beak, its flanks striped purple and white, and its cocked tail like its relative the moorhen. It vanished almost at once into a tuft of green reeds. But following that it felt like a winter's morning after all.

DERWENT MAY

■ What's about: Birders — look out for blackcaps in gardens. Twitchers — Pacific golden plover, Weymouth, Dorset; ferin, Thames Barrier, London: red-breasted flycatcher, Wheathampstead, Herts. Details from Birdline (089) 700222: 40p a min cheap rate. 50p



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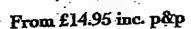
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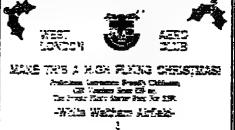
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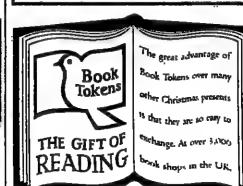
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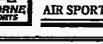
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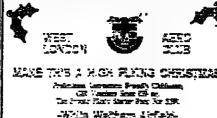
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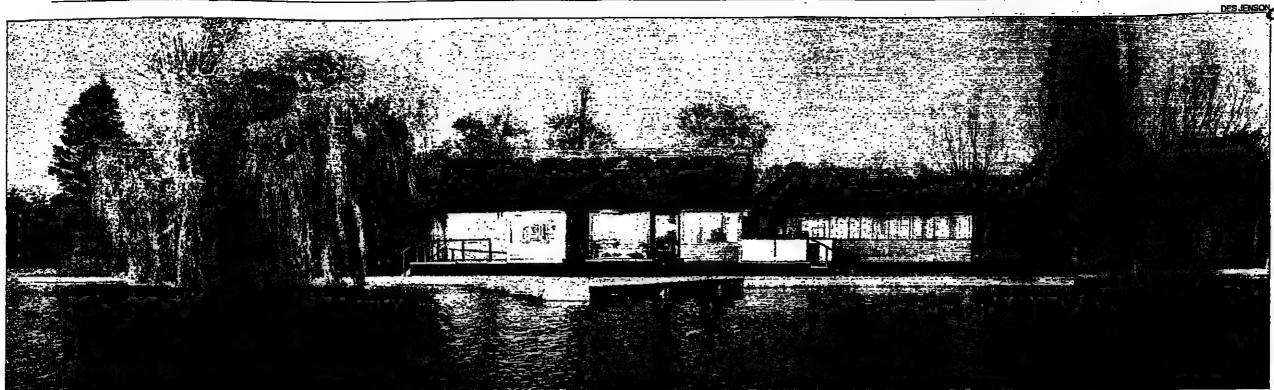








A turn-of-the-century boathouse on the Norfolk Broads has become a splendid five-bedroom retreat



Sheerwater can be reached by land but is best approached by boat. The house, which has a strong nautical theme, is for sale through Savills at £325,000. Since the nearest house

Window on a waterworld

launch swung out into Wrosham Broad. marsh harrier coasted steadily above the silvery water. A family of moorhens bobbed and ducked, not fur from a crested grebe. It is possible to walk to Sheerwater through a woodland path but by far the best way to approach this truly enticing house is by boat. We left our car at the finger-end of an inlet, and five minutes gentle motoring had the whole broad in view, with Sheerwater at its northern end.

The Norfolk Broads, long ssumed to be a natural feature, are now thought by some to be the result of medieval peat-diggings. Whatever their origin, they are a haven for sailors and lovers of wildlife. Sheerwater offers a remarkable setting for explor-ing this corner of England.

I spent the summers of my youth on the lakes in Maine England reminded me so much of those idyllic days as this Norfolk retreat.

Built as a wet boat house with living accommodation at the turn of the century, the house has gradually become a five-bedroom home while still retaining a strong nautical flavour: it is pine-panelled throughout.

Wooden houses are unusual in Britain, but this one, with its roof of sturdy Norfolk reed, seems as much made of glass, with enormous windows on both sides of the house. Even at the close of a winter afternoon. Sheerwater was filled with dazzling light.



The kitchen has pale oak cabinets and blue-tiled work surfaces

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Sheerwater, Wroxham, Norfolk ● Price: £325,000 ● Setting: eight miles NE of Norwich (regular trains from London Liverpool Street; Journey time approximately two hours) Shopping. vorwich, not renowned for nightlife, offers museums, theatre and a fine cathedral. Wroxham has shops. banks and a sailing club on the River Bure, which connects with the Broads network. Heaving shopping onto a boat, rather than bus, does make a nice change but the seasick-prone, beware.

deck and climbed out onto the quay heading which juts out over the broad; already I could imagine summer afternoons lazing on the deck. A walk around this long, slim house (a design that gives most rooms

We lashed our launch to the windows facing both north and south) reveals its two faces: there is a strip of woodland at the back, with weeping willows and swamp cypresses, that overlooks another narrow cut of water where wet and dry boathouses

tion. The sitting room, 30ft across, faces south, east and FREE SILVER-PLATED ICE BUCKET WORTH £59.99 west — there is glass all around, and a view down the broad that stretches uninterrupted for nearly a mile.
The pine panelling is painted white, the carpet is creamy pale; a comfortable green sofa stretches out in front of the

largest, southern-facing win-dow as if it were a giant screen - and it is. Who would need television or cinema when you could sit here for hours, watching the birds and the water and darkening sky? A thun-derstorm would be a son et

can be found. The area, includ-

ing this inlet, is about 3.4

acres, and the nearest house is

400 yards away - peace and

But it was only on entering

the house that I truly appreci-

ated its extraordinary situa-

quiet seem guaranteed.

There is no fire, but plenty of new radiators; although Sheerwater does have the feel of a summerhouse it seemed as if it would be cosy in winter too - if you didn't mind a chilly cruise first to reach it. The master bedroom, also

decorated in white, faces south, west and north; a shipwright has installed a fine look as if they date from the teak surface at the north wall and a porcelain sink, reinforcing the impression of a partic-

ularly spacious cabin.
This is by far the best of the bedrooms: the other four are small and serviceable, though with good fitted cupboards and drawers for storage. In the smaller bedrooms (particularly the easternmost, at present painted mint green). the panelling can seem a little overwhelming, even if you are happy to imagine yourself on

this is particularly easy in the last two bedrooms to the east, for they are just off a narrow corridor that faces the broad; it has windows, not portholes, but otherwise perfectly calls to mind the deck of

Each end of the house has a good expanse of south-facing verandah: this is a home where it would be just as easy to be outdoors as in. The lowceilinged master bathroom

1950s (was this the colour that came before avocado?) and has a wooden parquet floor.

The 30ft sitting room has glass all around and an uninterrupted view of the broad for nearly a mile. Even in winter it is filled with light

the smaller, eastern bathroom has an inviting sunken bath. The kitchen, which, like the bathrooms, was given a thorough overhaul by the present owners, is a wonderful room, with windows north and south, a generous expanse of blue-tiled work surface and pale oak cabinets.

There is an electric hob -Sheerwater is not connected to gas. But its new owner won't have any water bills — it draws its own supply from a borehole, and in the bootroom/workroom off the kitchen, a water treatment cylinder nestles next to the new electric boiler. Kitchen and bathrooms are.

not all that has been renewed. The present owner, a restaurant designer, bought the house in 1988, and since then has rewired and replumbed the property entirely, as well as redressing the thatch. The house is long past the fragile impermanence of the boathouse accommodation that was its beginning.

This is a house to buy for. space and light - for mornings boating on Wroxham. broad, and afternoons watching the sun set over the water. It would be bought in the knowledge that there will be no others like it - planning permission for such a house would never be given now, and it is surely destined to

remain in isolated splendour. The price tag of £325,000 is not small, certainly for Norfolk; but it would be a privilege to live here. A visit to Sheerwater was an escape to silence and the natural world that seems barely separated from the house itself: there is nothing between you and the wood and water but thin panes of glass.

We cast off from the quay as the sun began to set. Behind us, the windows flashed like jewels, like the glittering broad, in the low winter light.

ERICA WAGNER For sale through Savills Norwich, 01603 612211

THE DOWNSTAIRS LOO

To home should be without one. It is the place where award-laden actors claim to carelessly toss their Oscars while more ordinary mortals found solace gazing upon fading cartoons that were once side-splittingly

SELLING POINTS

For others with a more practical bent a downstairs lavatory is a necessity. If a small child is caught short, the extra scramble to get upstairs to the bathroom could spell disaster, while the potential for family rows is high if one bathroom has to serve in the pre-school, pre-work rush hour.

A convenient convenience is also so much more handy when entertaining and you can spare your guests the embarrassment of stumbling about upstairs trying to find the right door to the

If you are selling your house, a downstairs lavatory is an asset you should show off to prospective buyers, say estate agents. It may be the proverbial smallest room but has a universal appeal. Over a certain price level, many buyers

insist on it. An extra lavatory is also a helpful addition for househunters who may be elderly or perhaps less mobile and find



A downstairs cloakroom adds value

climbing stairs more difficult. And a downstairs cloakroom is also a logical addition if you are offering your house for sale with the potential for an extrabedroom on the ground floor.

in the popularity stakes adding an extra lavatory or whole bathroom ranks as the third most common addition by home owners, behind the perennial attractions of a new kitchen or double

It may also enhance the value, particularly if you can squeeze in a lavatory in an unused space such as under the stairs or in a basement and do not need to sacrifice room anywhere else.

The cost of installing an extra lavatory will vary considerably depending on the case of access to outside drains and cold water supply, but you can expect to pay around £500. The cost of the lavatory itself will start at around £100 - much more if you have a penchant for a mahogany loo seat or gold

You can even squeeze in an extra loo in a more difficult space such as a cellar. A loo with a special pumping unit attached can overcome the problem of the room being below ground level or some

distance from pipes.
Once installed, you can hunt out your cycling proficiency certificates and halffinished jumbo crossword puzzle to add the final decorative touch.

CLARE STEWART

PROPERTY NEWS

■ A THIRD of a million people each year move house without hiring a removal firm, according to Pickfords. The firm has launched Selfmove, a service providing vehi-cles with tail-lifts and packing materials, and a help pack with video. For a brochure ring 0800 901010.

THE latest Which? Guide to Renting and Letting published last week (Which? Books, £10.99) offers advice for landlords and tenants on the 1996 Housing Act. part of which gives landlords the automatic right to evict tenants.

ONE in seven rural households live in private rented accommoda-tion, says a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foun-dation, compared with one in II in urban areas. Just 16 per cent of private rented accommodation is furnished in rural areas. compared with 43 per cent in urban areas.

GARAGES in London can cost 50 per cent more per square foot than the residential properties around them, according to agent Douglas & Gordon in Chelsea. The firm recently sold a garage in Chelsea for £70,000 on a

29-year lease. ■ MORE than half the members of the National Association of Estate Agents think the standard of local education facilities influences house prices, according to a recent survey, with many buyers looking at schools before houses.

THE Middle River. a six-mile salmon-rich stretch of the River Beauly, ten miles northwest of Inverness, is for sale through Knight Frank (0131-225 8171, offers over £500,000).

AMANDA LOOSE





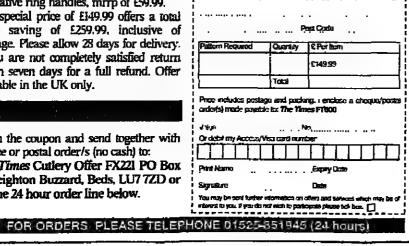


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with inglanook traptace and bread owin, drawing room, disting room and kitchen/breakfast room. Double garage and swimming pool.

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Partidges, Main Street, Ideo, Eliet Susser: Grade II Befed thistoned 16th-century house in a half-sore cottage garden; Four bedrooms, dressing room, bathstom, shower from, fiving room with Inglancok freplace, dinlog room, garden room and dealfroom. Double garage/wortestop. About 2218,000 (Philips & Stabbs, 01797/227838)

FULHAM

Golden oldies worth another spin

An old house that

needs restoring need not be a

liability if you get the right advice

estoring an old house can be an anxious time, with fears of subsidence and rot, blood sweat and tears, and huge expense. But for the brave who battle through these difficulties, the re-

wards are great.

Today, the recovering housing market is encouraging more people to take on old houses whose condition might once have put them off.

Business has been brisk for estate agents. Cluttons of Oxford reports the ale of 13 properties needing substantial restoration since the spring, from country cottages to farmhouses. But it recommends not buying an old building unless you are prepared to accept its particular character, warts

You must adapt to a house, rather than trying to iron it into the shape you want, says Philip Venning, the secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB), founded by William Morris

The SPAB publishes a list of buildings for sale of historic interest and in need of repair, and Save Britain's Heritage sells 2,000 copies of its annual report of 150 properties at risk. The agent Pavilions of Splendour specialises in selling listed buildings and ruins.

When you have decided on your area it is worth contacting the local conservation officer, because many councils keep a register of houses needing restoration and owners.

Once you have found the house, be sure you realise the extent of the work you will have to do, because these houses can be bottomless pits, and inevitably you will discover more needs to be done than you anticipate at the outset.

Get to know the property thoroughly. The more you know about it the easier it will be for you to brief a professional adviser or builder. Look. for anything that might shed light on how the property was built and of problems which may have been dealt

with successfully long ago.

Take as much advice as possible. Contact the SPAB (which runs weekend advisory courses), the Georgian Group, or the Victorian Society, all of which can advise on anything from specialist workmen to restoration



Mark and Gillian Archer outside Ringfield House in Fownhope, Herefordshire, restored for £60,000 and with the help of a council grant

techniques. Historic Housecheck provides a yearly site inspection for members as well as a helpline.

مكذا من الاصل

Seek advice from a surveyor who is expert in that sort of house and period, says John Gibson, of estate agent Savills. "The potential faults in a timber-frame house are completely different from those in a brick house. and the danger is that a nonspecialist will either over-worry or miss serious faults," he says.

specialist surveyor can advise on about how much to pay for the house by calcu-lating its residual value: its worth when finished minus the projected cost of the restoration.

If the building is listed you need building consent for any work, inside or out, which affects the character of the building. Contact your local conservation officer to discuss whether an application is necessary.

Funding for such work can be hard to come by. Grants from English Heritage are available only for Grade I and II* properties.

But the news is not all bad. Lenders are now more willing to consider funding delapidated properties. The Ecology Building Society, for example, specialises in mortgages for properties in need of renovation. And

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some councils provide alternative forms of funding, such as grants for energy conservation.

Once you have bought the proper ty, Ian Homersham of John D. Wood says, start with the essentials, even though the results might not be so obvious. "Get all possible work done before you move in. Don't think that you will do phase one and live in it, because by the time phase two comes along you could suffer severe disrup-

Mr Venning of the SPAB adds: "Remember that a house will have problems, such as damp, for a reason; not just because it is old. There are lots of materials, such as timber, which have survived and are strong, even though they may look moth-eaten. Find the reason for a problem before trying to solve it."

AMANDA LOOSE

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COUNTRY RENTALS

MARK AND Gillian Archer bought Ringfield House, a Grade Il listed six-bedroom home in Fownhope, Herefordshire for E140.000 in 1992 through the property list published by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB).

"We love old houses and liked the idea of bringing one back to life," says Dr Archer, who works in the City of London and has just become treasurer of the SPAB. "My wife works for the National Trust, so we are both interested in conservation rather than inappropriate restoration." The couple's bank advised them

that the house they had their eyes on was a potentially ruinous liability, but they were not put off. Dr Archer says: "It was in the recession. Banks and building societies were very wary of any property in poor repair. It was almost impossible to get a mortgage and house insurance."

The couple learnt the benefits of taking expert advice early on. They were advised by one structural engineer to strip off all the plaster to inspect the timber frame underneath. "It would have been unnecessary. There's too much alarmist advice handed out about old buildings. We tried to repair as much as possible and replace as little as we could."

The couple got a conservation grant of £3,000 for some of the work after contacting Hereford and Worcester district council.

"THE HOUSE hadn't been lived in for eight years but was structurally sound. The work took about nine months and cost about £60,000 in total," Dr Archer says. Much of the task involved

undoing poor work which had been done before, but they did find a few surprises: two fireplaces with Georgian grates and the original roof and pilasters of a Georgian porch, which they intend to rebuild.

"But don't restore an old property because you expect to make money," Dr Archer says, "do it because you enjoy it."

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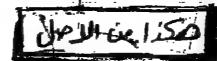
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garden, plus coach house, flat and garaging for four cars. (John D. Wood 01865 311522)



Inner-city residential areas are up-and-coming. Rachel Kelly looks at the rebirth of Clerkenwell



Development of Clerkenwell is taking on an American flavour with abandoned factories being converted into loft-style flats, echoing New York's trendy SoHo area

ome call it London's new Notting Hill. Others label it the capital's version of TriBeCa or SoHo in New York. Whatever you dub it, Clerkenwell has become the focus of property developers and the fashionable set.

The former industrial buildings of the area close to the City, encompassing Smithfield and some City fringes, are being transformed, blurring the line dividing residential west London and professional east London.

One of the busiest developers in the area is Bee Bee Developments, creator of some of the most dramatic loft conversions. It has recently bought the Clerkenwell Estate, a shabby eight-acre site, to refurbish tenanted commercial buildings and turn oth-

Alfie Buller, who works for the company, says: "People now want to live in central London again. The inner city is coming back to life. I am moving to Clerkenwell because it is

such good value with a village feel. "When you think that by the year 2003 the country will need four towns the size of Milton Keynes to cope with the demand for housing, it's vital that places like Clerkenwell start living again. The development of inner cities is helping to stop the cancer of urban sprawi."

Jon Spitteri owns the St John Restaurant in Clerkenwell, which occupies about half a block by Smithfield. "In terms of space Clerkenwell is perfect," he says. People are fed up with the traditional residential areas and want to move away yet still be in touch. There is a cosmopolitan mix of people here -City workers rub shoulders with artists and architects. It's unpretentious and refreshing."

A hint of New York and studies, had been used as a printing works for more than 80 years. We do not believe that we could have found such an unusual in old London town

Ben Richardson is the managing director of Metro imaging, a company specialising in photographic processing, and has been in the area for eight years. There is a creative, media-orientated atmosphere in Clerkenwell," he says. "It makes urban living interesting, and although the area can sometimes seem a bit grotty in places, it has managed to retain a certain charm."

Stephen Hurford, of the estate agent Hurford Salvi & Carr, emphasises the area's convenience. "You live in a community, but yet you can walk to the City in five minutes. while Soho is only 15 minutes away. The place is really taking off. We have 17 developments going on, and have already sold two. It is going wild. The niace is alive."

Developments include a new scheme in St John Street by The City Loft Company. Flats in the first phase are being sold for £100 a square foot. The building was previously the Dr Scholl shoe factory. Built in the 1950s. in red, brick with steel frame windows, 20 flats are planned, with parking spaces in the basement. There will be four split-level pent-houses, thanks to the addition of two

Other developers include Pamlion Properties, which, with Frogmore,



Lindsay Etchells: struck by strong sense of community

has several sites. Another developer is Manhattan Lofts, which pioneered development with its Summer Street conversion in 1992.

New RiverHead, a joint venture by the Berkeley Group, Manhattan Lofts and Thames Water, has flats on: Rosebery Avenue from £100,000 in a

six-storey Grade II listed building. Residents praise the area. Hilary Gibbs, a wine merchant, has lived here for 14 years. "Although we miss out on greenery and parks. Clerkenwell is central and conve-

nient," she says. "I love living here. While you are not constantly bumping into people you know, there is a relatively stable population. Many of the old shops are still run by the same people, which means that you get the service. My dry cleaner will deliver if I am too busy to pick it up."

n August 1994, Lindsay Etchells and her partner moved from a. flat in Balham, south London, to a derelict building in Clerkenwell. Despite its inner-city location the couple believe that the place has maintained its village atmosphere.

"Since moving in we have been struck by the strong sense of community that exists among residents of all ages and backgrounds, which everyone is committed to maintain-

ing," they say.
In July there is the annual Clerkenwell festival, which includes concerts, tea dances and a traditional

The Etchells' house, typically in an

building with so much potential anywhere else."

It was this mix of residential

alongside commercial premises that drew the couple to Clerkenwell, believing that it would have a more continental feel to it.

We thought the area would have a different atmosphere during the week when it is bustling with workers. compared with the weekends. This has been the case and the weekends are extremely quiet and pleasant."

they say.

The area is well served by local shops and businesses. "Clerkenwell has strong associations with the Italian community and there are some superb and friendly family-run Italian delis close by. "There are also some excellent

restaurants and more appear to be opening by the day. After working long hours, there is nothing better than walking home in ten minutes and, if the fridge is bare, popping into The Peasant or Stephen Bull for a

The couple have only one fear: that the area's increasing popularity and trendiness will adversely affect its character. "Part of Clerkenwell's attraction is that it is a mixed innercity community with all that entails. It is not another Hampstead or Highgate village and hopefully never

City Loft Company, 0171-613 1000. Bee Bee Developments, 0171-336 0202. Manhartan Lofts. 0171-631 1888. Pamilion Properties, 0181-349 1991.

Additional research by Helen Walters



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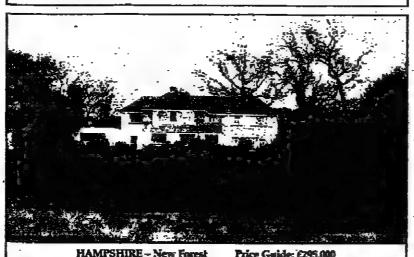


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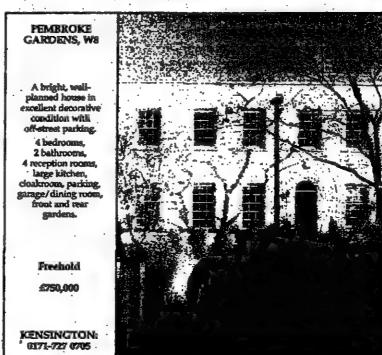
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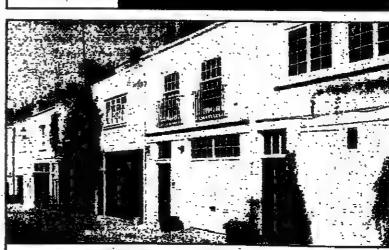
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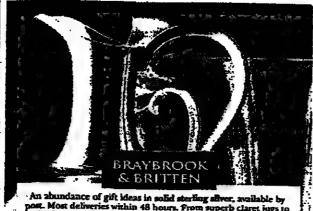
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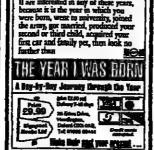
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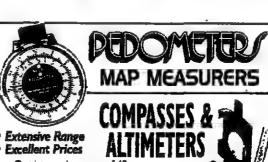
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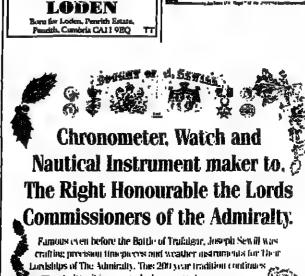




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A VEL WRITES

Pepi, my white minia-ture poodle, has brown stains below both eyes. A poodle breeder said it is blocked tear ducts and I should ask my vet to clear them. Is this correct?

The tear duct is a tiny tube leading from the inside corner of the eye to the flow pipe for tears. If it is blocked the tears overflow, dry on the hair and turn brown on exposure to air. Your vet could carry out a dye test to see if the ducts are blocked. It is possible to anaesthetise a dog so that the vet can pass a probe to re-open a blocked duct.

I bought sandpaper-covered perches for my budgie, Bert, to keep his nails worn down but he tears them to pieces and I'm sure he eats some. Why does he do this and will it harm him?

A Budgies chew — especially bored ones. Bert's got nothing to do all day when you are out. I don't think the sandpaper will harm him the sand provides extra grit. Twigs or branches from fruit trees, hazel or willow would be better and cheaper. He could chew the bark with total safety and gripping these natural perches would be excellent exercise for his toes and manicure his nails as well. Best of all, think about getting another bird as

Our rabbits — Bill and Ben — had colds. Our vet diagnosed "snuffles", gave them an antibiotic injection and powder to put in the drinking water. They're bet-ter, but Bill has a yellow discharge from his nose. Could the children catch apything from him?

"Snuffles" is common in A rabbits and almost impossible to eradicate. Most infected rabbits manage to live with their infection and have a happy, if snuffly, life. It's a rabbit problem — no risk

JAMES ALLCOCK

■ Readers should write to The Times Vet, Weakend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

Christmas is coming and the children want a pet. Jill Parkin has advice not to be sneezed at

Pets for allergic families

t is time to nobble Father Christmas on behalf of all those parents who sneeze and splutter when they are around fur and feather. The chap with the long beard (nasty itchy thing) must show more imagination when it comes to giving pets to children. My daughter, aged five, wants something small and furry to look

after. Her baby brother is proving hard to domesticate, so she wants a more tractable creature. In principle, I am in favour. Pets teach children about responsibility and caring. I do not want to stunt her psychological growth.

But I am allergic to a lot of household pets. Cats, dogs, cockatiels — you name it, they reduce me to a runny-nosed, sneezing heap. Even my step-daughter's jodhpurs set me off. I never go to a petowner's house without my homeopathic dust-drops.

There are many of us about. We are triggered by the hair, by the mites, by the dust. It is worse than it used to be because central heating is now common, which means pets are in a year-round moult.

If you are allergic, your choice of pet is decidedly limited. As a child I buried more goldfish than the next door neighbour's dog did bones. And fins and scales are not cuddly. It did not teach me how to care, just how to make crosses out of folly

The good news to pass on to Santa is that there are breeds and species less likely to bother us sensitive types. Those genteel old ladies with their pet poodles are in the know. Poodles — and the poodle-like bichon frise - have a wool coat, rather than hair. They need trimming, but they hardly moult. Good for the houseproud and the rhinitis sufferer. So are old English sheepdogs.

curly coated retrievers, Irish water spaniels and Kerry blues, which look like a terrier. The only doggy house where I can sit down to a meal without a box of tissues is home to a curly retriever. It also has no fitted carpets, lots of open windows and a big garden.

If dogs make you sneeze, the chances are cats will send you into orbit, even if you are sensible enough not to touch them. Cats delight in spotting allergic guests and jumping onto their laps. The only cat breeds we should consider are Cornish and Devon rexes.

the pet which Anne McLoughlin, of



Roger Meek with an Australian blue tongue skink. He says: "Skinks are allergy free, easy to look after and like being held"

the British Veterinary Zoological Society, recommends. "I've never heard of anyone who is allergic to white rats. They make good pets. They like people and respond to

"Rabbits, hamsters, chinchillas and chipmunks are all highly allergenic, and cats tend to be more so than dogs. Caged birds can be bad too, because of their feather dust and the seed husks of the food

Remember that even if you go for something like a gerbil or a guinea pig, which are not as bad, you may still be affected by their bedding. If hay and straw affect you, they would be no good either. "I've never heard of allergies to

fish or reptiles. But remember that reptiles have a long life. A hamster dies after a couple of years. A

ACCESSORIES

tortoise can live for 80 years," Ms McLoughlin says. So before you buy an iguana for your child, remember it will not leave home before they go to university.

this time of year, the RSPCA repeats its chant "a pet is for life not just for Christmas", but its advice on exotic fish and reptiles is worth bearing in mind. You should find out what the creature's needs are and whether your home can meet them before you buy. Even if you never sneeze, providing live young rabbits for supper every day could prove a bit of a bind.

But, according to Roger Meek, a reptile specialist at Huddersfield Technical College, the blue-tongued Australian skink is an

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"Allergy-free and easy to look after," he enthuses. "They're omnivorous. And, unlike most reptiles, they're not nervous. They like being held. We have girls on animal care courses here who cradle them like babies. They're about a foot long, excluding the tail. Lovely temperament. So has the

in the end, there is one sure allergy test. "Road-test the animal." says Dr Ann McBride, of the Anthrozoology Institute of South-ampton University "Go along to the breeder, the pet shop or another owner, handle the animal and see what happens. It's extremely upsetting for owner and animal if a new home has to be found."

Royal python."

An expert in aggression in rabbits, among other things, she recommends waiting until your

child is seven or eight before buying a small soft pet. The family dog is fine, but little children have no idea how hard they are gripping or how much force they are using. That can lead to fear and aggression in the animals," she says.

And an allergy-free pet when the child is bigger? "Rats are very good. Highly intelligent." Call me narrow-minded, but I cannot bring myself round to the idea of a pet rat. Meantime, the woman in our local pet shop suggests a gerbil or an angora goat — kept outside — for my daughter.

Even gerbils make me sneeze. That is why, during the school holidays, I once filled my mother's casserole dish with warm water and resorted to shampooing our class pet. It will have to be the goat. And probably a very big dish.



THE National Canine Defence League has launched a Sponsor a Dog scheme, which enables people who do not have the space or time to give a dog a home to sponsor

It costs £52 a year and the sponsor receives a paw-print certificate, updates on the dog three times a year and is encouraged to visit and walk the dog. All the dogs that are sponsored are too nervous, old or infirm to settle with new

Christopher is a lurcher, aged unable to stand. He is a gentle and loving dog who enjoys walks but has proved hard to rehome. Contact NCDL Dumfries (01387

770346). Bobby is a black and tan alsatian cross, aged nine, with a steady nature but he tends to guard his territory, which makes him difficult to settle. Contact NCDL Ilfracombe (01271

For further details about the Sponsor a Dog scheme, contact the NCDL on 0171-837 0006.



Bobby has a steady nature

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THE CATS PROTECTION LEAGUE

Latch on to those lymphs

ALTERNATIVELY SPEAKING :

t could be tricky to write objectively about kinesiol-A ogy, a therapy which tests muscles to analyse an individual's health. When I left my chosen kinesiologist, Jane Gothard, she kissed me goodbye.

Though we had never met before, I had bonded for two hours with the supremely sympathetic Ms Gothard, so the farewell did not seem odd. But it is hard to disentangle feelings about the treatment and my liking for her.

She is a blonde New Zealander of 34 who turned to kinesiology when she was covered in eczema and acne and conventional medicine had failed. Six weeks after visiting a kinesiologist and abandoning dairy products, red meat, caffeine and alcohol her complexion turned to the peaches-and-cream perfection that it is today. That was nine

She spent £3,000 training for two years with the Association of Systematic Kinesiology and has been practising for five years.

The system was devised in 1964 by Dr George J. Goodheart, an American chiropracter. Even conventional doctors test the strength and range of movement of muscle-damaged patients. Kinesiologists do the same tests by holding a limb aloft to isolate a relevant muscle elsewhere and getting the patient to pull in the opposite direction. They part company with conventional doctors when they claim that the way a limb resists pressure reveals the patient's general, rather than ust their muscular, health.

If a limb responds weakly, then there is an imbalance in a corresponding organ. If the limb can resist the pressure, then the corresponding body part is healthy. The kinesiologist investigates the various organs and finds hidden im-

Like acupuncturists, kinesiologists believe that a balanced body runs on an unimpeded flow of energy. Each of the important organs and systems is fuelled by one of 12 energy channels or meridians, which combine to form an energetic network which links the mind, organs,

muscles and body systems. Excess stress can block a meridian, which leads to weakness or imbalance in the related body parts, which register in the muscle that is

linked to them. The kinesiologist claims to correct these weaknesses by applying pressure to points on the body. especially the lymph glands, to stimulate blood,

The good bit is that in theory you immediately feel better after a visif and a rub to the lymph glands. The bad bit is that part of the treatment to

rebalance those misbehaving organs is nutritional, and this can mean abandoning some of your favourite things. I lay flat on a couch in Ms Gothard's serene sitting room

and enjoyed her bedside manner and hoped she could help reduce my stress and clear my complexion. Kinesiologists claim to cure tiredness, digestive problems, aches, stiffness, migraines, skin problems and anxiety, but they never diag-

RACHEL KELLY me," she instructed. When she pushed

went straight down. Her prod-ding revealed that my organs

were dehydrated, she said. A glass of water later and my arm did indeed seem stronger. That was because my body was picking up, she said. But I was not sure that it was not just because I had subconsciously pushed harder the second time round, per-haps to please her that the





prodded my chest, stomach and throat hand. "Breathe out as you push against at first, my arm-was weak and

theory was working. Part of the treatment in-

volves identifying food sensitivities which can be



Flexing muscles: Jane Gothard working with a patient

Kinesiology

What it is: Muscle tests to analyse the state of an individual's health. Advantages: Gentle, non-invasive, has no side-effects and you can learn how to treat yourself at home. Disadvantage: It takes an hour and a half.

Cost: £40 a session.

weakening an organ. So Ms Cothard placed a variety of suspect foods in my mouth and did the familiar before-I held up my outstretched arm and resisted gentle and-after arm pushing routine pressure from Ms to see the response. Gothard while she

Oh, what a bore! She says I am sensitive to wheat and more particularly pasta. So no more spaghetti carbonara or vongole for that matter. And, curses, butter too.

I had earlier been bloodtested for food intolerances and wheat was not one of them, so I am not altogether convinced. But when I list what I had eaten the day before - wholemeal toast for breakfast, a sandwich for lunch. a mince pie for tea and pasta for supper — I take Ms Gothard's point that a few wheat-free days would make sense and to try porridge for breaklast.

Like every beauty editor, she recommended drinking more water. "Not fizzy, as that just fills you up with carbon dioxide. Remember that one cup of coffee means you get rid of double that fluid from the body." I tested well for vitamin C and vitamin A which pumped up my arm power. So she prescribed taking plenty more of them.

er final diagnosis was that my adrenal system and immune systerns were both low, and could be helped by stimulating my lymph glands which would help clear the system of toxins. She suggested rubbing in a circular motion up the inside thigh to release toxic blockages in the glands.

She did so herself on my behalf and golly it hurt. The glands become tenderised as they get blocked up, she said. Get your husband to do it at home," she added.

One of the virtues of the theory, says Dr John English. a Salisbury GP who uses kinesiology, is that it encourages people to treat them-selves. A helpful husband is even more useful. Had mine been a believer, I would have probably got more lymph rubbing done. As it was, I have settled for porridge for breakfast. And yes, I do feel more energetic, and I am not just saying that because I like Ms Gothard

 Jane Gothard, 0171-724 1149. Association of Kinesiology, 39 Browns Road, Surbiton, Surrey KTS 8ST, Send an SAE with El in screen

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ere supposed to be going to Burford for the week-

A clean getaway for the weekend PERSONAL LIFE

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end. For a long weekend. A proper Friday to Monday, in fact. I have been planning this excursion for what seems like months, and have succeeded in convincing myself that there are going to be absolutely no problems. All I have to do is put a change of clothes in a bag, assemble my son and his panda and my jewellery and the box containing my love letters (an exasperated friend once observed that I pack for a weekend away as though fleeing from a Mongol Horde). Then I put the lot in the car, and head for the M40. If we leave by ten at the absolute latest on Friday morning we could be there in time for lunch and a troil around the antique shops, easy.
In fact, none of this happens,
because I become gripped with the

paralysing separation anxiety that always moves in when I am to be away from my house for more than a few hours. I may be sick of London and longing to wake up to the sound of birdsong and the bracing report of shotgun fire, but there are, I decide with the irrefutable meta-logic of the hopelessly deranged, many unpleasant and time-consuming tasks that have to be performed before I can even consider double-locking the front door and waving goodbye to Greenwich for four whole days.

First I must drive to Sainsbury's and buy roquefort and Parma ham and tapenade and focaccia and chocolar meunier and quantities of whisky and claret, in case

these things are not to be had in Burford. (The fact that we are going to stay with my son's godmother, whose opinions on the need to have vast amounts of alcohol and nourishing food available at all times precisely reflect my own, for some reason does nothing to calm my panicky conviction that there is nothing

good in the country - or if there is, they will not let you have it.) Then I must return home (having forgotten, naturally, to fill up with petrol at the supermarket)

don't say that word." "Thank you so much for reminding me, darling"), heave all the shopping out of the boot (with a view to putting most of it back again later) and change the sheets and wash the floors, so as not to return to a grimy house - so depressing.

Washing the floors takes forever, because Alexander is keen to help and has to be dissuaded with ever more taxing flights of imaginative fantasy. Look, I say, you are Admiral Lord Nelson and this chair is his ship, HMS Victory. and here is the sea (slosh, slosh

with the mop). And panda can be Captain Hardy, and together you are sailing the Victory to the Battle of Trafalgar and no. darling. no don't get off the chair because you're the Admiral and if you do then, er, Boney will get you and so you won't win the battle and be the saviour of your nation, now will you? "You don't want to be the saviour of your nation," says Alexander, who still hasn't got personal pronouns sussed. Oh dear, well, um, what would you like to be? "You want to be Mummy, and wash the floor."

Eventually, at 4pm, when I have polished the inside of the piano lid and disinfected the underneath of the loo cistern and gouged all the crumbs out of the oven door hinges with a kebab skewer and in fact Mrs Tittlemouse herself could not find fault with the state of my housekeeping, we make a move.

I consider calling Catriona to tell her we might be a shade late, but decide it sounds mad to say that I couldn't leave home without doing the dusting and laying in a bootload of provisions in case her larder should be bare. Alexander has by now caught the general tone of lacrimae rerum. "Goodbye, house," he says as we pull away from the kerb, in the

mournful accents of the Israelites leaving for Babylon.

In fact, of course, we aren't going anywhere much. There is Friday afternoon gridlock all over London. Snailing past Park Royal tube station, I buy an Evening Standard from a bloke at the roadside to remind Carriona of the vibrant London life she is doubtless missing already, having been in the Cotswolds for 24 hours. But the paper has taken a curious turn for the rustic. Features pages are given over to articles on huntin'

and shootin'. Surrounded by the metallic grind of a thousand cars proceeding westwards in first gear, the hallooing of our enraged fellow motorists ringing invigoratingly in our ears, we make good our escape

JANE SHILLING

Tyrannised by that flickering screen

Some parents ban TV; others allow their children to gawp endlessly.

Judy Goodkin sits on the fence

t eight o'clock every Thursday evening, I sit down with my nine and ten-vearold daughters to watch the latest instalment of Animal Hospital, a clean and jolly programme presented by the clean and jolly Rolf Harris.

I promote Animal Hospital (and other wholesome programmes) because it is safe; I know Rolf will never take his clothes off, behave violently or form any dubious relationships. But I encourage it even that while our viewing may be regulated, TV reception poor and the attic where we sit cold and draughty, we too are watching population.

in my heart I know our membership hangs by a rapmy daughters would change their address tomorrow if only they could go and live in the Matlin household. There, three of the five colour televisions are permanently switched on, each with the volume turned full up. Nineyear-old Gideon cites London's Burning as his favourite programme while his freely watches the programme my daughters may only share

Personal

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July 127

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in vicariously: Neighbours. Michael and Linda Matlin, who both work in sales. live in a near close of modern houses in north Manchester with their two children, five television sets and a satellite dish. It is difficult to say when the family's daily viewing begins and ends as it is not unusual for them to go to bed with the television on, fall asleep and find the breakfast shows ready to greet them first thing the next morning. The children eat TV-breakfasts and TVsuppers, switching on the Sky

cartoon network as soon as they come home from school: Often a video is the last image their eyes will see before falling asleep at night. "I suppose we should read them a bedtime story but we are just worn out parents who need a rest," says Michael.

What began as background noise "the way people used to regard radio" has become a vital prop to the Matlins' family life and there is no discernible effort to limit the ren watch. TV makes life easier for us. We come in tired in the evenings and I want a quiet life, I don't want to fight with them. As far as we're concerned they can use their leisure time as they wish. That's not to say they can watch filthy programmes at any hour of the night, but at the end of a hard day neither of us is going to start making biscuits with them or Blue Peter models."

The children seem contented, the parents relaxed. There is no banning, no bargaining nor any of the simmering resentment which my children direct at me. Linda would like Gideon to read more and while she admits it is not always easy to wrench him away from the screen to do his homework, as long as he is sociable and popular she feels vindicated.

Television is just as central to the Cullerier family of north London: in their home all ex-Jacques, a retired doctor, and his wife Estelle decided to raise their only child. Sarah (now ten) in a television-free environment. Their impulse seemed flawless, in theory. Without wishing to sound too philosophical, at the end of your life you hope to have achieved a balance between useful hours and wasted



Switched ou: Simone Mattin, six, and her brother Gideon, nine, have a choice of five television sets to watch; it is not unusual for them to do to bed and fall asleep with the TV on

hours. On which side of the scale would you put television?" asks Jacques. "What is raising a child if not educating her to choose what is valuable and discard what is not?"

n practice, once Sarah hit seven she began to feel painfully different. "TV is a big issue at school, the scaps especially," explains Estelle. "We did not want her to be without any cultural reference points. So to make her life easier we bought a TV, removed the receiver and use the hollow monitor to screen musical comedies and nature videos at appropriate times." While Sarah still grumbles

occasionally, on good days the compromise seems to work. In return for the next-best-thing to real TV, Sarah must accept that her parents are her programmers. "She is free to choose what she likes within the range we offer. Our choice may be limited but at least it is our own choice and no one

Jacques insists that Sarah is more creative, more discriminating and has a greater range of inner resources to draw on than her television-watching peers. In the hours they have reclaimed for her, Sarah reads, studies ballet, practises the piano and eats her meals at the table with her parents

where they make a point of engaging her in conversation. But no home can be hermetlcally scaled. "Rubbish will find its way in," shrugs Estelle. Sarah has carte blanche when it comes to radio and has found her way unerringly to the Spice Girls.

The Matlins and the Culleriers are poles apart yet oddly similar: both have nailed their colours to the mast and everyone knows where they stand. Although I am convinced most programmes are worthless or worse and that it vision remains part of the common currency connecting us with our fellow man and

find I cannot turn my back on it completely. So I sit teetering on the fence while my daughters never see enough of the "right" programmes to keep up with their friends. Instead, they watch and feel deprived, the worst of both worlds.

she encounters.

sermons which make the heart want to sing.

While I continue to tie myself in knots, Gideon and Simone have seen most of the adult world laid bare before them and appear to take it in their stride. According to their mother, "they cotton on pretty quickly about which charac-

The Times

Best Sermons of 1996

wrong to go off with someone else". Even so, there is one programme they will never watch: The one where dogs with halitosis are taken to see the vet. What kind of nutters watch Animal Hospital?"

Ruth Gledhill enjoys a taste of tradition at a Highland refuge in the heart of Knightsbridge

A fine performance of Scottish pomp



around us were nearly all Scottish, the service was Scottish, and the sermon was preached by the Moderator of the Church of Scot-

land. Normally a drive of several hundred miles would be needed for such an event, yet this rare treat was to be had in the heart of Knightsbridge. The Moderator, the Right Rev John McIndoe, was making the annual St Andrewside visit to London, and during his tour would meet the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the president of the Methodist conference, as well as visit London's centre for homeless Scots. Although profoundly Scottish him-

self, his two-week visit, interrupted only by an overnight trip St Giles, Edinburgh, to commemorate the return of the Stone of Scone to Scotland, was also a return home because his permanent job is minister of St Columba's, the London flagship of the presbyterian Church of Scotland, or Kirk, which is Scotland's national church. He will be moderator for a year only, before returning to

London to continue his ministry. We arrived as the Moderator, we arrived as the Mouetaior, wearing formal 18th century court dress similar to that worn by a male speaker of the House of Commons speaker of the House of Commons but with lace at the collar and cuffs. but with lace at the collar and cuffs. symbol of the Burning Bush, the South East in more ways than • St Columba Church of Scotland, Pont was delivering an address to 70 emblem of the Church of Scotland, is through worship. During the week. St. London SWIX OBD (0771-584 2321)



The Right Rev John McIndoe

children before they left the service for Sunday school. He spoke about the meaning of uniformity. "Whatever person we are, whatever jobs we do, the one thing which unites us is that

we are all made in the image of God." The church stands tall and white like an icy refugee from the Scottish

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McIndoe SERMON: About taith and belief, There must be grounds for faith, but there is always room for the

spirit." ARCHITECTURE: Striking white stone building with a tower **** MUSIC: Mixed choir accompanied by Gerald Barnes on a splendid,

thunderous organ. *** LITURGY: Morning service with hymns, prayers and sermon. Communion four times a year: **

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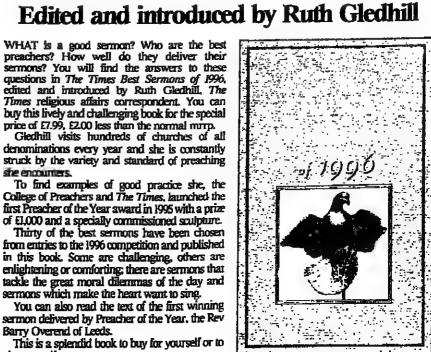
dedicated to St Columba, the Irish patron of poets who founded monasteries and churches in Ireland and Scotland, most famously on Iona, Columba was said to have had "the face of an angel" and, in one of many miracles, succeeded in banishing the monster from the river Ness into the loch. With a congregation of between 300 and 400 cach week, the church serves the Scottish population of the

the church is alive with dance music, with the Highland Club and the Clans, the Chelsea Reel Club and the church's own country dancing club meets there regularly, alongside Alcoholics Anonymous and other groups.

The church celebrated its 40th anniversary last year, and the organ's 40th birthday was celebrated on Thursday with a recital. At our service we sang wonderfully traditional hymns, and heard a stunning anthem by Mendelssohn. The Rev Calum MacLeod, assistant minister. requested God's blessing on both nation and monarch. "We pray for the unpopular, the unconventional, for those who carry secret yearnings," he said.

The Moderator preached from the pulpit, behind which stands the chapel of the London Scottish Regiment. He described living in the Moderator's flat in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, a property open to the public and owned by the National Trust. I was going through the front door one day [in my Moderator's outfit] as a lady was coming out. She had done a tour of the house. Perhaps her mind was running on antiques. She put her hand on my arm and said: 'I'm sorry to be missing your performance." We, however, enjoyed his performance immensely, and thoroughly recommend St Columba's for all in the South East who want a

taste of Scotland.



You can also read the text of the first winning sermon delivered by Preacher of the Year, the Rev Barry Overend of Leeds. This is a splendid book to buy for yourself or to The Times Best Sermons of 1996 Post Code PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 20%. Allow 28 days for fellerny from receipt of order, Offer available to the LR & Ers. Name Fraemational contact by held responsible for returned goods lost in transit. No claims for loss in transit can be

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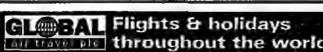
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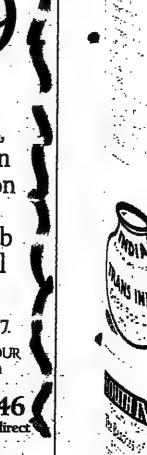
















The land where fussy lotus eaters go

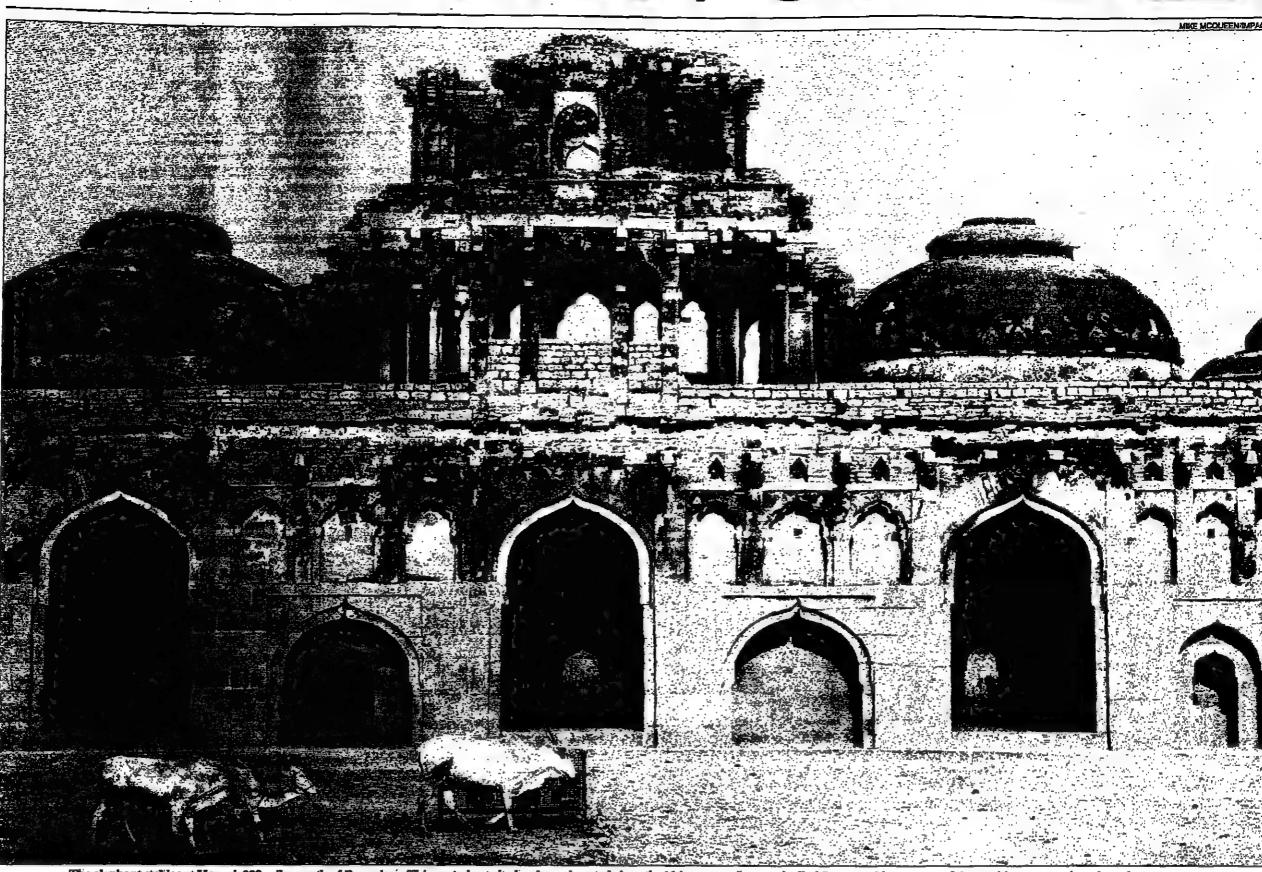
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The elephant stables at Hampi, 200 miles north of Bangalore. This vast ghost city has been deserted since the 16th century. It once rivalled Rome and is now one of the world's great neglected tourist treasures

particularly chipper. I have arranged for you to see His Highness the Maharajah," he beams. MOLIDAY We will proceed at 12.15." To fill the intervening two hours, he takes us on a tour of the palaces of Mysore. They lurk on every corner, seemingly dozens of them with their pillars and domes and driveways big enough to stage a Durbar. Even the balconies have balconies. PARTY TERM We pass an especially sumptuous pile, A summer palace? A winter palace? "No, no," Mr Gopal says.

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The old stores." Mr H.D. Gopal is a wiry man in his late sixties. He knows Mysore better than anyone. For seven years he was Master of Ceremonies for the last ruling Maharajah, who ceded power to the Indian Government after Independence Mr Gopal inherited his post organising state functions — from his father, who had inherited it from his father. It carried huge

r Gopal is looking

responsibility.

The Maharajahs were — after the Nizams of Hyderabad - India's richest rulers. They wore coats made entirely of pearls, sat on solid gold thrones and commissioned jade chess sets studded with rubies.
"Oh yes, yes, yes," Mr G says.
"Very great wealth."

He leads us round Mysore's suburbs. The yellow-painted bungalows of the long-gone British are settling into discreet decay as Income Tax offices. Tongas trot past, straight out of Kipling. And

The high and the mighty Mr Gopal sighs nostalgically for the old days, when the Viceroy

came to banquets, when the royal guards were given allowances to keep their bushy moustaches in trim, when the household staff of 15,000 included 1,200 in the kitchen ("But slowly we retrenched"). He checks his watch. Eleven o'clock. "We will proceed to City

Palace," he says. "Come." Mysore's City Palace is preposterously plush, with its solid silver and ivory doors, with its solid silver and ivory doors, its Venetian glass and its turquoise and gold pillars — once gold leaf, now, after retrenchment, gold paint. It leaps fearlessly beyond good taste, like Brighton Pavilion redesigned by Walt Disney. On Sunday nights, it is lift by 50,000 fairy lights. Sleeping Beauty could slumber happily here.

Crowds of Indian tourists jostle around. They point to the murals of 1930s processions, where the State Elephant is just passing the Liptons Tea sign and the Rolls-Royces of visiting Rajahs clutter the church car park. "The fellows from the villages used to come in their bullock carts to see," Mr Gopal says. "And look..." He points to the centre of a mural, to a studious man with waxed moustache and scarlet turban. "This is my father. When I see these scenes I feel like

Stephen McClarence admires palaces in Mysore, takes tea with the Maharajah and remembers not to tease the elephants

crying. They were the best days of our life. But it is 12.10. We will proceed to the Maharajah." We stroil round the back of the palace, to the private quarters of His Highness Srikamhadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar. Though no longer the ruler of the state, he still wields power as an elected MP. and leads religious rituals. He also

breeds racehorses and runs investment companies.

We wait in a dark hallway. packed with a whole 200 of stuffed animals, shot in less enlightened times. Lions, tigers, bison, antelopes, bears, a monkey restyled as a reading lamp, an elephant's trunk nifully converted into an umbrella stand. Their legs made good occa-sional tables, says Mr G and withdraws. "I will go and come."

Suddenly, we are summoned. We hurry through libraries and secretarial offices and corridors lined with watercolours of Corowall. At the far side of a very large room, opposite two exercise bikes, is His Highness the Maharajah, an impressive figure in a white dhoti. He casts an eye over our visiting

cards, signs a letter held out by a silent flunkey and orders tea. It arrives in silver goblets. His palace grounds are now maintained by the state and His Highness is not always best pleased. "I have just telephoned them to complain," he says. "The drives are full of elephant dung!"

He reckons he can achieve as much as an MP as he might have done as a ruling Maharajah though, yes, he could "still cause upheaval" if he wanted. "But what do you think of Prince Charles?" Is the power of the British royal family waning?

The Maharajahs have had to move with the times. Many of their palaces have been converted into hotels notably the dazzling white Lalitha Mahal Palace, echoing and expensive on its own hill high above Mysore. As a statement of wealth, it could hardly be bettered. American tourists with bulging burn bags stay in rooms once used by the Viceroy. It's the world of modern tourism which the Maharajah's sister, Princess Meenakshi Devi, has eagerly embraced. She runs her own travel company. Regal Voyages, from Bangalore, a two-hour train journey from Mysore through the lush coconut palm landscape of Karnataka state.

Bangalore is India's boom city. Its computer industry and consumerism make it an icon of an expanding nation. In a street of shopping malls, pizza parlours and freezer warehouses, the toy shops sell Barbie in India dolls (brunettes in Rajasthani bridal dress) and CD stores smooth out Julio Iglesias. At a Louis Philippe outlet, a young

assistant wraps a pair of socks costing half a labourer's weekly wage. "So much materialistic hunky-funky!" he sniffs. "By the way, what do you think of Salman

A pub culture thrives here, with 200 startlingly un-Indian theme pubs. The Red Lion, with its Hay Wain prints, aims to recreate "the feeling of a typical English pub -Oh! to be in England drinking English beer". City slickers perch on bar stools, their packets of

Mariboro in front of them. The Princess organises tours that give glimpses of the city's more traditional life and customs. Half way through a day of potters, sari factories, hand-painters and Indian classical music, we are ushered into a dance teacher's front room, where a young woman is preparing to show us classical dance. "This is Miss Karnataka," says the teacher proudly. "Winner of beauty pag-eants." Is she entering Miss India? "I fack the height," says the young woman with a downcast glance.

"Only five feet six inches." Gradually we fill in the gaps on the Maharajah's family tree. In the Bandipur National Park, south of Mysore, his other sister. Princess Visha Lakshi, runs Tusker Trails, a wildlife resort above plantations of sunflowers and sugar cane.

Mr Gopal is in his element as he points out the old hunting lodges and the spot where the late Maharajah shot the elephant whose trunk made the umbrella stand, Priorities are different now. Teasing of animals prohibited," says a sign as we set off on a dusk safari. We take care not to tease the bison or the elephants. Panther tracks pad through the dust. Tigers?

Maybe tomorrow. And so to the final branch of the

family tree - to the Maharajah's brother-in-law. Gajandra Singh Auwa, who illustrates books on India's heritage and enthuses about Hampi. He is right to do so. This ghost city, two hundred miles north of Bangalore, once rivalled Rome and is now one of the world's great neglected tourist treasures. lts ruins — pleasure palaces, bath houses, elephant stables - cover 15 square miles and have been desert-

ed since the loth century.
In Egypt, any one of its temples would be the excuse for a Hilton or a Sheraton. But we spend a day with the site - strewn around a surreal landscape of vast other boulders — almost to ourselves. A rare chance to pretend to be a pioncer Victorian traveller.

Women sit cross-legged under banyan trees. A monkey steals bananas from a roadside stall. There's a distant thwack of laundry being slapped on a stone and we stroll along the river bank to the fantastically ornate Vitthala Temple. Inside, the silence is almost complete. It is the perfect vision of timeless romantic India - herds of goats, swooping green parakeets, bullocks with tinkling bells. The sun sets a dusty orange and across the ruins drifts the quintessential sound of modern India. "The runrate has been bang on target this innings and India are 31 for 4."

The transistor radio plays on and we proceed with Mr Gopal.

• The author toured Karnataka as a guest of Regal Voyages

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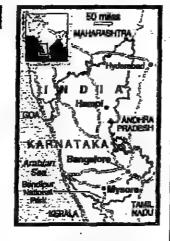
through Trailfinders.

Regal Voyages of Bangalore (0091 80 334 4066) organises tailor-made tours of southern India. A four-night chauffeurdriven tour of Mysore. Bangalor and Hampi costs from £235.

Tusker Trails of Bandipur (0091 80 334 2862) offer jeep safaris from £40 per day. Gateway Hotel, Bangalore, has double rooms at £80 a day finduding taxes). Hotel

Siddharta, Mysore has double rooms at £8.

British passport holders need. visa for India, from the Indian High Commission (0171-863 8484). The India Tourist Office is at 7 Cork Street, London WIX IPB (0171-437 3617). dered lezzes still flip-flopped



Sarah Anderson of the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) BOOKSIDP (VII-L29 ScOV)
recommends: Penguin Guide to
the Monuments of India:
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140 08144 9. Ont. An Indian Pilgrimage by Geoffrey Moorhouse (Sceptre, ES-99, ISBN 0 340 60191 4. Cadogan Guide to Southern India by Frank Kusy and Robert Issaesun (Cadogan, £14.99, ISBN 1850 11070 3). nials in khaki, diplomats in drink. The club is now a hotel.

INDIA GUIDE

AS I AM about to spend four months in eastern India, I have been studying most of the available guides, Joe Roberts writes.

Louise Nicholson's India

Companion (headline, £14.99) an updated version of ladia in Leouy, is the best by a long chalk. She leads you off the beaten track in search of the aesthetic delights she clearly relishes. In Calcutta she proposes a visit to the Kumartuli district where potters lashion sacred images of Hindu deities; in Lucknow she directs you to numufacturers of chikankari embroidery, attar shops and the fighting-cocks of the Aminabad Bazar, in Delhi she recommends the medi-eval Nizamuddin area.

This book berhaps in conjunction with the Penguin Guide to the Monuments of India) is for the sophisticated tourist. Miss Nicholson shares her considerable knowledge of Indian history and culture like an iastic friend. It is a :

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Aspects of Jamaica: A five-bedroom pad at the Half Moon Club or history and churches nestling inland

A place for fussy lotus eaters

y the time he actually met James Bond, the ornithologist whose name he had stolen from the spine of the classic Birds of the West Indies, lan Fleming had been living in Jamaica for nearly 20 years. "A couple of weeks ago," he wrote in 1964, "they arrived here out of the blue, the real James Bond and Mrs Bond. and couldn't have been nicer about my theft of the family name. It helped at Customs,

Fleming wrote all the Bond books in Jamaica, at Goldeneye, his villa near the northcastern banana port of Oracabessa, now owned by Chris Blackwell of Island Records. Soon after the war, while still settling in, he offered some advice to the potential visitor from Britain: I can assure you that sun and calm blue seas and brassy heat can be more wearying exasperating than the grey but ever-changing por-ridge in which you live."

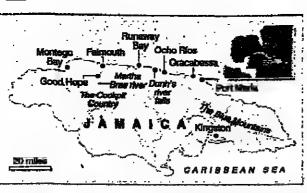
Fifty years of tourism later. while seeing what Fleming meant, I must beg to disagree All that sum, sea and heat might get a mite monotonous all year round but for a brief escape from Britain's sour old climate, at whatever time of year, they strike me as pretty close to perfection.

Understandably, perhaps. many Caribbean-lovers never leave the expensive luxury of their hotels. But if you're one of those travellers who can't relax, or just likes to explore. it's time you sought out this largeish island: 140 miles long by 50 wide, unusually mountainous for the region, with everything from luxuriant tropical vegetation to its own distinctive culture and lively day-and-night action.

For all but the most resolute beach-potato, a leisurely way to explore Jamaica's interior is by river-raft along the Martha Brae, inland near Falmouth and "Cockpit Country", a nat-uralist's heaven, with almost 1,000 species of flowering plants unique to the island. Other scenic beauties include the Dunn's River Falls, whose fresh-and-salt water mix you can sample as they merge with the sea by Ocho Rios.

Caribbean, Jamaica also offers a diversity of historical sites, from the Bob Marley Birthplace Museum in Kings ton - a must for students of reggae and Rastafarianism to the stately old plantation houses along the north coast towards Montego Bay: Green-wood or Rose Hall.

They had their day 150 years ago. Jamaica's more recent reputation for danger draws a weary sigh from all you meet. indigenous or otherwise. On Air Jamaica I found myself sitting next to the High Commissioner, the sublimelynamed Derick Heaven, who



FACT

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Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: A High Wind in Jamaica by Richard

ISBN 0 002 71312 5). Middle

III Janualea Tourisa Bount

told me that three of Jamaica's

18 police forces deal with 80 per cent of the island's violent

crime — all in Kingston. For

my part, as I told him, I twice

the all-night Reggae

dropped off my teenage sons

Sumfest in Montego Bay,

watching with mixed paternal

feelings as they disappeared

into a teeming throng - only

to find them sleeping it off next

morning with beatific smiles,

having taxied safely back after

the time of their lives. Jam-

aica's recent reputation, in

other words (mine, not His

Excellency's), is a burn rap.
It was an ironic silver lining

of last year's Hurricane Luis.

by islands, that many long-

time stay-aways became last-

minute returnees to Jamaica

pleasantly surprised to find

they were not mugged on

sight, or offered ganja while

out shopping and that the natives, with their smiling

refrains of "Yeah, mon" and

"No prob-lem!", are as friendly as anywhere in the region.

Some regulars measure

these things in terms of hotel

staff, who elsewhere can swiz-

zie your rum punch with a

scowi. At Montego Bay's Half

Villa's staff - butler, under-

Moon Club, where we were outnumbered by our Royal

person per day.

Reading: the Travel

Hughes (Harvill, £7.99.

02920 6).

with our surname spelt out in flowers, and looked after almost too attentively. Our five-■ Booked through Elegant Resorts (01244 897999), a bedroom pad came with delicious home cooking (ackee scheduled flight to Monteg Bay from Heathrow on Air and salt fish for breakfast, pepperpot soup and jerk chick-Jamaica (0181-570 7999), or Gatwick on British Airways en for dinner), well-stocked bar, TV and video throughout, (0345 222111), car transfers two golf buggies to roam the oniv), would cost from £990 private pool and Maxi Priest, t Half Moon Club (001 809 the reggae star, next door in a 953 2615) or from £995 at mansion previously occupied Round Hill (956 7050).

> Golf, tennis, water sports, fitness centre, even riding and croquet, along half a mile of bath-warm seawater: the Half Moon is as sleek as these olaces get — Las Vegas-on-Sea, for my taste, compared with the tranquil charms of its equally well-equipped but more degantly refined neigh-

by Whitney Houston.

my sons and I were welcomed

oel Coward's piano in the seafront bar symbolises the calm of Round Hill. whose philosophy of unobtrusive, personal-touch luxury remains unchanged since it oneered this way of life in the of handsome private villas all with their own staff, many with pools -- as well as rooms in the main house.

Round Hill is where JFK was feted by the CBS-TV boss Bill Paley, in the villa where these days Paul McCartney takes his family for Christmas. For the lotus eater who is fussy about his lotus, this is paradise. Half Moon and Round Hill are just 20 minutes east and west, respectively, of the airport at Montego Bay, and ten hours from Heathrow on Air Jamaica — absent from British airspace for the past 12 years but now back in style, art, the entrepreneur behind the Sandals resorts.

Having made my first visit by Air Jamaica 20 years ago, I am delighted to report that it has returned complete with its unique fashion parade, whereby the stewardess who has just been serving you dinner suddenly wanders by in suitry beachwear. Add an aerobics session, conducted over the public address system to ward off jet-lag, and they help start (and end) your Jamaican vacation in suitably serene style.

ANTHONY HOLDEN ● The author was a guest of Elegant Resorts and Air Jamaica



The beach bar at the Half Moon Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where visitors are outnumbered by hotel staff

The hills where slaves took refuge in religion

with Jamaican beaches, but what makes this fertile island so rewardingly different from elsewhere in the Caribbean is its hilly interior. Here are acres of exotic fruits (every one you have ever heard of, and more besides), churches of every known denomination. strange little communities. and old plantation houses which, unlike in Antigua, have not all been destroyed.

Rose Hall, close to Montego Bay, may be the best-known of the "great houses" — because

Doctor Who

fan travels

Microsoft® Encarta* 97 Encyclopedia.

See The Times Nagazine was it is

used to sleep with her slaves before killing them - but Greenwood, in the hills above the north coast, has the most fascinating history and contents. Owned by the Barretts (of Wimpole Street) since the mid-17th century, the estate had 84,000 acres and 2,000 slaves. In the 1780s Edward Barrett's income was said to exceed £60,000 per year.

Greenwood boasts that no other house in the Caribbean has a better collection of furniture and artefacts. My eye was caught by inlaid

cedar bath tub and a steel man-trap to catch escaping slaves. At the top of the house a 70ft-long veranda has a panalmost 180-degree view of the Caribbean Sea. In the garden below. John Crows (Jamaica's ubiquitous black vultures) swoop over the casu-Good Hope, overlooking the

mountainous Cockpit country,

is a Georgian house converted to a ten-bedroom hotel. It has the look of a colonial governor's residence. Other great houses, such as Belvedere and Colbeck Castle, are in ruins, having been burnt when slavery ended in the 1830s. They remind one of Irish houses destroyed at the time of independence, though their estates may still be flourishing today. At Belvedere, one of the first sugar cane plantations, the present owner breeds Red Poli cattle and has 50,000 trees producing citrus fruit, bananas and coconuts.

If the institution of slavery was responsible for Jamaica's great houses, it is also directly

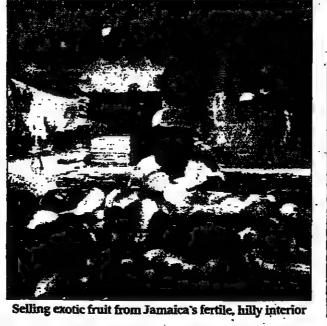
TEXT YOUR low cost see your local travel agent or call

tion of churches on the island. In the 18th century the Church of England in Jamaica represented the ruling class; none of its Christian teachings were designed to give succour to the slave population. So it was left to Methodists, Baptists and Moravians to make common religious, and more revolutionary, cause with the slaves. Nonconformist churches went on growing: Pentecostal-

ists, Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Evangelicals and Revivalists all had their followers. If Protestant Christianity has a fissiparous tendency, it is nowhere more evident than in Jamaica. No one seems to know quite how many church buildings there are today in Jamaica - more than 900, I was told, belonging to 200 denominations.

hen driving around, it is worth stopping to admire the many roadside churches, especially those built more than a centuago. The most unusual ry ago. The most unusual Catholic community in Jamaica is to be found at Seaford Town, in the parish of Westmoreland. In 1835, at about the time slavery was abolished. some 350 German immigrants arrived here from Hanover. Lord Seaford let them have 500 acres of poor, hilly land,

where they eked out a living. Over the generations there was some intermarriage with English and Jamaicans, but there has also been inbreeding among the German families. The curator of the local museum, which has a fascinating plements and photographs,



told me he was 95 per cent German. Apart from the church, the German community at Seaford supports a Catholic Sacred Heart Mission, a clinic and a vocational training centre, which are partly funded by the German government.

Much less accessible are the descendants of the Maroons, a group of slaves who were given a form of autonomy over the wild and remote Cockpit country, where they went to live in the last century. This densely wooded area south of Falmouth, rising to 2,500ft, has no roads and is best left to its few local inhabitants.

Wherever you go in Jamaica, you will hear English spoken in Jamaican dialect. Expressions such as "Hurrycome up are immediately comprehensible when you learn that it means nouveau riche. The weekly market in Falmouth is known as the Bend-Down Market because all the clothes and other goods for sale are laid out on the ground. The only drawback to exploring inland Jamaica is the condition of the roads. Many have pot-holes, made worse by rain, and signposts on country mads are few and far between. "All you have to do in Jamaica is ask the way." I was told reassuringly by a shopkeeper. When I said that the last time I had done so. I had been sent in the wrong direction, it was endearingly predictable that he should roar with laughter.

When once stuck behind a lorry on a mountain road, I noticed on one of its mud flaps the words: "High Hopes - the sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." But if the roads get you down, there is, or was, a railway line from Montego Bay through the hills to Kingston. The service was closed in 1985, but it is due to reopen soon. The only problem is that, in:Jamaican, "soon" is not a word that is capable of any definition.

SIMON COURTAULD ■ The author was a guest of Air

See you at the 19th hole

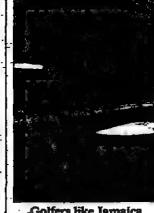
10 catch

The late-night pyjarna and toga parties inissed through legitimate tiredness. Montego Bay is nine and a half hours out of Gatwick, and 90 minutes by mini-bus westwards to Runaway Bay, where the Jamaican SuperClubs group is host at its 400-bedroom Breezes resort.

The heach-terrace mini-Olympics? More, I think, for lady arm-wrestlers and tug-ofwar specialists from New Jersey and Phoenix. The trapeze? Well, the back's a bit troublesome. But of 30 items chalked on to the day's beach schedule there was plenty left.

Golf? That was at a par-72, 6,602-yard championship course ten minutes' stroll from the resort's luxuriant tropical gardens and tennis courts. It's the one place to take a lev dollars to pay caddies who will instruct a scratch player on his swing or a novice on ways to hold a putter.

Scuba diving? No problem and no extra cost. Preliminary instruction was in the pool followed by a 20ft plunge off a boat to places where tropical fish abound. Water skiing was



Golfers like Jamaica

May to September hurricane season but tropical storm Caesar, 250 miles south, had moved on, the sea had calmed, and beginners were allowed half-a-dozen attempts at the hard bit — rising up as the tow-rope tightens.

Probably the last thing you need at a super all-inclusive resort, as founder John Issa terms his eight Caribbean properties, is your wallet. In the beach bar, restaurant or disco, daquiri, rum punch or wine is free. "They thought we'd be drunk dry." Mr Issa says. That's not the psychology. In the home you have a drink when you feel like it. The same here."

f you fancy a shopping trip outside the 40-acre complex, an off-duty waiter will act as escort for about £15. If nothing else, he will understand Jamaican petois, an unwritten goulash of English. Spanish, French and African. But who needs shops? Buffet food in the shingle-tiled beach restaurant is ample and wellcooked by an all-Jamaican staff. Local produce does not stop at jerk pork and chicken. (Jerk? A spicy sauce and nought to do with personal habits or styles.)

FACT FILE

7999) operates four flights a week from Heathrow to

Montego Bay and Kingston. Prices start from

1694 retorn. Caribtours (0171-58) 3517)

offers one week at Jamaica Inn, Ocho Rios, from £1,109, including scheduled flights

with Air Jamaica; a three

week stay for the price of two between May I and October JL It also offers

breaks at Good Hope.

The shape of the island

has been compared to a

turtie. It is 140 miles long.

is divided into three

Middlesex and Surrey

and 50 miles between north

and south coasts. Anywhere inland is less than an hour's

Air Jamaica (0181-570)

The tired or lazy will sunsoak under shady palms on a quarter-mile strand, tempted only by a din in the ocean or kidney-shaped pool, maybe eyeing the colourful scene over an iced cocktail. Laughter! What's happening over there? An arm wrestle with Jodie? Well, that's my arm well and truly twisted. Running away at Runaway Bay was fo Spaniards 300 years ago.

JOHN SAMUEL The author was a guest of British Airways Holidays (01293 723131) and SuperClubs' Breezes resort at Ruraway Bay, Jamaica. The all-in price for a weeks stay from July to September is E1,392 per parson.

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Indian Ocean: A Robinson Crusoe escape to the Maldives; plus the spicy atmosphere of Zanzibar

A golden chain with no catch

n the mornings 1 am woken by the low laughter of women in bright saris sweeping the white carpet of sand with palm fronds outside my terrace. I transfer from my thatched cottage to my hammock slung between two palm trees at the edge of the lagoon, to ponder, not very seriously, how spend the day ahead on Ari Beach in the Maldives.

The choices are delightfully limited. Little more than a sandy spit a mile long by 300 yards wide, Arl Beach is one of the remoter Maldives — a "no news, no shoes" island. It is certainly the nearest thing I have discovered yet to the Robinson Crusoe package promised by an increasing number of holiday brochures featuring this island chain.

Stretching across 500 miles of Indian Ocean, about 400 miles off the coast of Sri Lanka, nobody seems sure how many Maldive islands there are. Marco Polo claimed as many as 12,700, though the Government stipulates 1,190, of which 198 are officially designated tourist islands. The locals live separately on their own islands where the mainstay is fishing, and which tourists can visit only with a

The Portuguese, British and Dutch dabbled with colonial rule, but south-east Asia's smallest nation, 99.66 per cent of whose territory consists of sea, gained full independence as an Islamic republic in 1965 - and is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first tourist arrivals with a Visit the Maldives Year promotion next year.

The holiday image of the Mal-dives does not appeal to everyone. Too many "paradise" islands turn out to be boring to all but the most dedicated beach potato. Emphasis on "diving facilities" conjures up visions of smelly rubber suits and over-chlorinated swimming pools: while warnings that fines will be imposed on holidaymakers bringing in duty-free alcohol send out waves (though alcoholic drinks are widely and legally strictly pr available in tourist hotels).

on its own island, Hulul, just opposite the capital, Malé, and hotel transfers are by helicopter. speed boat or dhoni, a wooden

fishing boat. With the huge gold-coloured dome of the Islamic Centre dominating a skyline of warehouses and skyscrapers, the capital is not a tourist island, though it is interesting to catch a glimpse of local life.

from the SS Kenya. Then, the

Sultan had sailed out in the

royal barge to greet us. The

last of the Sultans — and all

the Sultanas — have gone, toppled in a revolution in 1964.

But the palace, the barge and

their trappings remain, and many older Zanzibaris still

speak of them with respect -

as they do of the Dutch, the

Germans and the British, all

of whom stamped their stan-

dards and education systems

on the island. Even my

minicab driver. Seif ("I drive

safe-ly, beep-beep, ha ha"), had sat the Oxford and Cam-

bridge Joint School Certificate

examination in 1952 and

Zanzibar has become more

dilapidated than ever, with

much of the lovely white architecture besmirched by a

creeping black mould, public

transport erratic and the econ-

omy on a switchback. But a

preservation order, backed by

a United Nations grant, has

halted demolition of all build-

ings of architectural merit -

Stonemasons are restoring

crumbling walls and façades.

Carpenters and metalsmiths

are fashioning replicas of the

famous Zanzibar doors -

massive rectangles of maho-

gany or teak, elaborately stud-

ZANZIBAR

and there are hundreds.

Sadly, since the revolution

passed with four credits.

1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

 $1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{d_i^2 \hat{\theta}_i}{d_i^2}$

and the second second

usually stuck with just one hotel no local bars, cafes or even shops, though there is always a tiny mosque tucked among the palms for the hotel workers.

It is almost impossible to distin-guish one Maldive island from another. All have coconut palms, haloes of glorious white sand and turquoise. lagoons encircled by reefs - plus the considerable advantages of no malarial mosquitoes, no snakes and no violence. The Maldivians are very friendly.

Although hotels have their own water and electricity-generating

Even rubbish disposal is a major problem, and on the flight out we were issued with plastic bags for our own waste to be carried back to

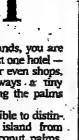
Despite the islands physical similarities, the style of the hotels establishments - usually on the islands nearest to Male - to the more laid-back escapist atolis such as Ari Beach, which can take three hours to reach by boat, or 30 minutes by helicopter.

otential Crusoes will not

find the five-star Kuruaba cheap. This was the first resort to be developed, in frangipani and bougainvillaes are manicured to perfection; the air-conditioned bungalows have phones, television and hairdryers. Lobster and sashimi are among the 50 or so items served at the candielit beach barbecue each week. The notice-board lists hosts of activities, from tennis and gymsaunas, every type of watersport and warnings in five languages

created a welcoming impression or staticals. The ded an introductory our arrival. The Maldives airport is dive on Xurumba, in the lagoon rather than the pool, and wished I had more time to continue.

> visited, is unusual in having three: hotels, one of them all-inclusive: with an amazing line in cocktails: The representatives tell me that they plan activities on the assumption that new guests will try them all on their first day, the second will



The islands have almost no indigenous plant life and no resources...

plants, all food has to be imported and refrigerated, which means that gastronomy is rarely a highlight, and costs can be high.

1972. The mature gardens, spacious lawns and alleys brimming with nastics at the fitness centre, to

that nudity and topless bathing are

Kurumathi, the next island I



Officially there are 1,190 islands in the Maldives, an Islamic republic and the smallest nation in South-East Asia, stretching across 500 miles of the Indian Ocean

Kuoni (01306 7405000)

offers a week's half-board at Ari

they will be ready for action — a pattern repeated fairly systemati-cally throughout the holiday

Back on Ari Beach, it was back to basics - no pool or relevision, the dining areas are open-sided and simple, though there are termis. courts and diving and sailing lessons. The managers wife Pauline is from Tonbridge, Kent. She wan on houday to the Malan escaper hideaway.

The days soon develop their own slow, satisfying rhythm. One evening. I want on a night-fishing: excursion and, with a primitive line and hooks and lots of supervision. bagged a couple of red snappers for

Snorkelling on the reef, I plunged into a new multicoloured world where I learned to distinguish. be hangover day, and by the third oriental sweetlings and lemon me- • The author was a guest of Kuoni

ringue wrasses from sleeper gobie and humbug damsel fish, and marvelled at the amazing parrot fish that can change colour and sex, and create whole beaches by nib-

bling at the coral. Evening entertainments are limited - a display of local dancing even crab racing — which avoided, having become fiercely protective of my own friendly resident mollusc.

palms suspended between translucentalcy and sea, and the occasional silhouette of a fishing chani drifting across the horizon.

I might not make a habit of holidaying in the Maldives, but I would certainly be prepared to notch up a few more atolls like Ari

JILL CRAWSHAW

Beach from £599 to £797, at Kuruamba from £727 to £874, B&B. The Maldives can also be combined with Sri Lanka. India, Singapore and Hong Kong. Three nights in Delhi with five nights in Sri Lanka plus six nights in the Maldives,

costs from £1,039 to £1,221. the Atoli Explorer, carrying 40 passengers, visits several Maldives islands and costs from

Diving schools in hotels follow the Professional Association of Diving Instructors Open Water Course, which includes nine training dives and theory lessons and equipment hire. From £210.

£989 full board for a week.

FACT FILE Hea Alf Atoli MALDIVES > Vaevu Atol

ARI BEACH Faal Atoli Dhael Atoli Thus Atoll '. Laerrau Atoli --

Indian Ocean

Weather the Maldives have a year-round season, but the driest months are from December to April, wettest from June to October.

■ Currency: the official currency is the ruffyah, but the US dollar is used in the island resorts.

Other operators include 4431) and Cosmos (0161-129

Reading: the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Ibn-Battuta. Travels in Asia and Africa 1325-1354 trans. H.A.R. Gibb (Darf. £15, ISBN 1850 77002 6). Guide to Maldives by Royston Ellis (Bradt, £11.95. ISBN 1898 32323 2).

Shy spice girls of You can smell the spices as you step off the plane - cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and others too subtle to identify - waiting like an the fragrant island aerial bouquet garni from the north of the island, where they grow in profusion. I had last visited Zanzibar 44 years ago, on a day ashore



Stalls in Zanzibar town sell produce grown in the north of the island

ZANZIBAR FACT FILE

■ Getting there: Gulf Air (0171-408 1717) flies to Zanzibar from Heathrow from £1,063 return; British Airways (0345) 222(11) flies to Dar-es-Salaam with connecting flights to Zanzibar (30 min) by Precision Air or Air Tanzania; £999 return. Trailfinders (0171-938 3939) has savings on standard fares (eg. £495 to £567). Specialist operators Somak (0181-423 3000), Cordial Tours (0181-405 0100) or Wild Africa Safaris (0171-259 9908) offer five nights' B&B, including airfare, from £579 to £915 per person, depending on season.

■ Where to stay: the Shangani (00255 54-33688), Mazsons (33694; fax 33695), Dhow Palace, Tembo and Serena Inn in Zanzibar town, or Fisherman's Resort (30208; fax 30556) and Sau Inn, Kidogo and Sun Rise on the coast. Prices range from £8 per person per night (room only) in the Kidogo, or £20 B&B in the Sun Rise, to £42-£68 per person per night (half-board) in the Fisherman's Resort Central hotels range from £48-£65 (£52-£68 B&B in the Serena Inn).

Recommended tour operators are Chemah Tours and Safaris (fax 33385) and Rambow Tours & Travel (fax 33496).

Zanzibar today enjoys a higher per capita income than the rest of Tanzania, but the economy is linked to the dollar. While I was there the G7 ministers were in session, trying to decide how best to prop up the dollar, and so it was clearly a time for invest-

ment to be "frozen". Everywhere there are halfbuilt houses. Yussef Khan, a private building contractor, told me: "When times are good, people invest in bricks and cement. Then the currency loses its value and they tell me, 'Stop'. Then they tell me: "We have more money - put the roof on or whatever."

ne area where "stopgo" is not applied is in the north of the island, where nature dictates events. The cotton and banana plantations, eoconut groves, spice trees and herb fields are still the mainstay of Zanzibar's foreign earnings, with cloves accounting for 60 per cent. I followed "the spice trail" and Ali, my guide, proved more than a botanist: he described uses for the spices far beyond their culinary norm.

Those leaves," he said. pointing to the camellia-like leaves of a clove tree, from which bunches of green cloves were sprouting, "we boil them and give them to pregnant

put the powder in tea or coffee. two or three hours before going to bed. It makes them feel sexy. But it has the opposite effect on the husband. So who gets it in their drink depends on how the woman feels that day." I will be watching for the slightest

PETER FAIRLEY

VISEMENT

YOKOHAMA

women to stop vomiting".

He popped open a whiskered annatto nut and released a shower of red pips: African women paint their lips and fingernails with those." Then he broke off a brittle stick, oozing black res-in. "Liquorice." he said.

My favourite anecdote concerned the nutmeg. "Muslim ladies use it to remove their shyness," Ali explained.

They dry it and grind it and

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

(b) Consideration. deliberation, reflection. thought. An aphetic form of the Old French avisement. Thou are a fole in that case: For thou spekes without visement."

(c) A toponym from the Japanese city, used as a specific epithet for fine cloth and also birds. "A

domesticated breed of jungle-fowl known as the Japanese long-tailed fowls or as Yokohamas."

or forceps, from the past participle stem of vellere to pluck. "Volsella, or Vulsella, an Instrument to pull up Hairs with by the Root. Tweezers: Or a Chyrurgions little Tongs, which are of different shape according to the Diversity of their Use." VACCARY

(a) A place where cows are kept or pastured; a

dairy-farm. From the medieval Latin vaccaria.

(c) Tweezers. From the Latin volsella tweezers

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DAY 6 Drive to Changde and stay at 3-star Yunshan Hotel. En route is a unique visit to the jinshanling part of the Great Wall where we savour the sturning DAY 7 Visa the imposing Eight Outer Temple followed by the visit to Bangtus Peak by cable car. (BL)

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DAY 8 Drive back to Beijing for the short flight to Xian and transfer to the tourist class Empress Hotel. (B) BAY 9 Full day visit to the world renowned Terracotta Warriors, the nearby Hua Qing Hot Spring and Banpo Neolithic Museum. Back in the City, visit the Ming City Wall (BL) DAYS 10 Fty back to Beijing for 2 more rights. (B)

DAY 11 At lessure providing opportunities for some less munute shopping for silk, porcelain, clossome and lacquerware. (B) DAY 12 Depart Beijing in the afternoon, arriving at Heathrow the same day. (B)

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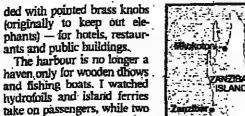
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5 nts Safari & 5 nts Zanzibar from £834 11 nts Mombasa Beach & 3 nls Zanzibar from £699 emporia, full of cut-price mer-Contact your local agent or call chandise, were still there; the potholes were, if anything. deeper: men in richly embroi-dered fezzes still flip-flopped



container ships were queueing to berth. Telephone and mail services are efficient and I saw mobile phones appear out of slits in the voluminous white robes of several young men. But as I walked the old Stone Town again, I was struck by how little had ("Good day"); women still changed in half a century. The scuttled into dark interiors at

by, murmuring Jambo

the slightest glint of a camera.

to check on the English Club,

I walked up Shangani Street

door; the buffalo head still peers down the staircase but it is white with dust; signs still point to "Committee Room" and "Ladies Powder Room" but the stench stops you in your tracks. The full-sized billiard table is stacked in pieces against a wall and the white pedestal weighing machine - marked in stones and ounces and bearing the sign "Weigh Yourself at the English Club" - is encrusted with verdigris and rust.

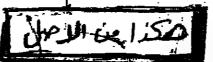
cotton suits and naval chaps in

white duck. Two miniature

cannon still guard the front

The veranda - designed like the deck of a ship, with a view over the Indian Ocean still has a bar but I had to wake the barman to get a once a second home to colonials in khaki, diplomats in drink. The club is now a hotel.

whilf of nutmeg in future.



Britain: From Dundee to Penzance on board the UK's longest scheduled rail journey; plus Christmas breaks

A long way to go to run out of steam



The Tay Bridge, first of many engineering landmarks

t may not be the longest train ride in the world and it is certainly not the most giamorous, or even the quirkiest. It has never been featured in any of those celebrity compilations of the world's great train journeys and Paul Theroux has never written about it.

But for the sheer density of its points of interest, British Rail's six times a week Dundee to Penzance train, marketed as The Cornishman, the longest scheduled passenger journey in the country, takes some

beating. For 704 miles from the Tayside coastline of northeast Scotland to its destination. within ten miles of Land's End, the train carves a crosssection through the geography and daily routine of the nation.

one of the most easterly extremities of the British Isles and finishes, after the end of the working day, close to England's most westerly point. It is unique in serving as a commuter service during both rush hours at opposite

ends of the country. The service, usually pulled by a soot-encrusted InterCity 125, creeps out of Dundee station at 6.40 each morning. Sundays excepted. For most of the year it is flagged away in the cold pre-dawn Scottish During the summer, the few

passengers around to witness it are treated to one of the most stunning of a series of picture postcard views as their train Bridge. In the first of its many guises during its trip, the departure starts as a morning commuter train for the Jockbroker belt of rural Fife.

The train fills with pinstriped bankers, lawyers and fund managers heading for their offices in Edinburgh's Charlotte Square. It must be one of the most civilised rush hour trains in the country. spare seats and sweeping views of the coastline of eastern Scotland, culminating in the spectacular run across the

Forth Bridge. Near Edinburgh the train passes within yards of lowly Raith Rovers' minute football ground — the first, and possi-bly least impressive, of the



End of the line and Jonathan Prynn has had enough after 12 hours, 704 miles and 24 counties of his rail journey

string of sports stadiums that can be seen. By contrast, the next is Murrayfield, capacity 64,000, home of Scottish

At Edinburgh's Waverley station, where The Cornishman arrives at 0804, the character of the train utterly changes. Out get the pinstripes to be replaced by students, tourists and pensioners catching what is one of the first InterCity trains of the day going south from the Scottish

The day I caught the train one of only three who got on at Dundee and were still aboard at Penzance — the passengers joining at Edinburgh included a Canadian family heading for Bristol, bound for Salisbury on a whistle-stop tour of Britah. With the majority of InterCity trains heading straight to London, such crosscountry oddities as The Cornishman are invaluable to the

dedicated tourist. From Edinburgh, the train plunges through the Border Country south to Berwickupon-Tweed, England's most northerly town, and to my surprise, one of its most attractive. Passengers have a pan-oramic view of its rows of perfectly preserved Georgian town houses from the soaring viaduct across the estuary another treat for afficionados of

DUNDEE TO PENZANCE FALL FILE

Fares for the trip start from £84 for a limited availability Apex return booked at least seven days in advance. Standard single fare is £104.90. first-class £151.10. A saver return is £133.60, while a Supersaver (not Fridays) is £115.10 return. CrossCountry have a "Voyager" package, including return travel, two free meals, plus unlimited free tes and coffee and a free newspaper — £116.20 standard, £174.80 first-class. NB: All return journeys from Penzance to Dundee involve a change at Edinburgh as there is no through service on the

journey back.

Hotels and guest houses closest to Dundee station include: The Old Steeple Guest House (01382 200302, double £32 to £44), The Travel Inn (01382 203240, double £35.50) and the West End Hotel (01382 225712, double room £30 to £51).

is still not 0900. It is about this time that the Penzance-bound passenger begins to appreciate why The Cornishman has never rated

as a glamour train trip. The food is dire. Soggy, microwaved bacon rolls are all very well, but when they are the culinary highlight of a 12hour train journey, something has to be wrong. A dining car is out of the question. The train is not used by enough of the business market to make it

With luck, this will soon change for the better following last month's sale of Cross-Country, the BR subsidiary that runs The Cornishman, to Richard Branson's Virgin

Britain's greatest vistas. And it Group. Mr Branson has promised a major overhaul of the trains and a new range of hot and cold meals based on the food served on his Virgin

> Newcastle, after ticking off yet another splendid. Lailway bridge, The taken inland for a tour of some of the great towns and cities of the North. Durham, Darlington, York and Leeds follow in character of the train again changing, now becoming a mid-morning local stopping.

With five changes of conductor during the course of the

day, the train's voice changes. too. Announcements that were made in the early morning in a guttural Scottish accent, now come over in a Yorkshire dialect. By the end of the day, the names of the stations will be called out in a rolling West Country burr. But that is still a long way ahead.

More sites trundle past the window — the crooked spire of Chesterfield and Derby County's Baseball Ground football stadium - before the train reaches the grimy outskirts of

For a trip that begins and ends by the sea and spends much of its journey bounding through the countryside, this is a shocking contrast. For perhaps only a half-hour The Cornishman is hemmed in by the dingy-industrial landscape of the West Midlands, but it

feels longer.

The next stop is nearly 90 minutes away at Bristol, allowing a leisurely lunch selected from the range of "international cuisine" offered in the buffet. On my trip the choice was microwaved packet lasagne or microwaved packet chicken korma. Roll on Virgin Rail. The only consolation is that after Birmingham the views pick up again. Beyond Bristol, eight hours

after departing Dundee, the

The office workers heading for their homes in the commuter towns and villages of eastern Cornwall are no different.

Beyond Plymouth, The Cornishman parrs over its finest rallway structure since it left. Newcastle, the Tamar Bridge. This is deepest Brunel country and the bridge is one of his Into Cornwall, the last of 24

STATION STATION

train is palpable. The sea

appears once again as The Cornishman makes its spec-

tacular sweep along the sea-front past Dawlish and

Teignmouth. On a day packed with great train vistas, this is

It is now evening and at

Taunton the train begins to fill

with schoolchildren going

home. At Plymouth, where it is

scheduled to arrive just before

5pm, it becomes a rusti-bour commuter train for the second time in the day. But this is a different clientele from the

The suits are of the

grey, crumpled vari-

ety worn by middle management the

the best of all.

money men of Fife.

counties passed through since Dundee, the train once again becomes a local stopping service, calling at all seven sta-tions between Plymonth and Penzance and taking two hours to reach the end of the line. The countryside is pretty, but the novelty of sitting for hours watching the world roll by has long passed.

By this stage only the most fanatical of hardened anoraks can still be taking pleasure: from the journey. The sight of St Michael's Mount with the certainty of Penzance a few miles beyond at 1855 is a huge

Penzance, where we arrived
15 minutes late, is literally the end of the line. More than 300 miles from London and 700 from Dundee; the sight of the grimy train nestling up to the buffers is deeply satisfying. I have never done the Trans-Siberian Express, but I doubt whether many travellers emerging at Vladivostok after their seven-day trek have felt a greater sense of achievement.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Great city break in Dundee

DUNDEE is one of 11 less fashionable cities which have joined forces to convince visitors that they can offer just as much on a short break as London, Edinburgh or York. Under the banner "Great British Cities", they are promoting bargain deals in a range of hotels from four-star palaces to simple guest houses, and publicising attractions open all the year.

Weekend deals range from £40 a person for two nights in the Shaftesbury Hotel, a converted jute baron's mansion, to £98 for two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast in the Angus Thistle Hotel.

Other cities in the conson tium are Aberdeen, Derby, Glasgow, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Portsmouth and Stoke-on-Trent. Details from city tourism centres. For Dundee, 01382 434664.

Go north

GRAMPIAN Country Cottages still has a few properties available for rent over Christmas. Guests will receive a complimentary bottle of whisky and festive decorations. The cottages include Granary Wharf Villas, close to a sandy beach for that Boxing Day swim, and Dykeside Cottage, on a working farm. Prices range from £225 to £350 a week. Details, 01464 861778.

Party on

FOR the largest self-catering house party in Britain, Help-ful Holidays is offering a former hotel with accommodation for up to 31 guests. Situated on the River Yealm estuary at Newton Ferrers. south Devon, the property has its own private jetty plus perking for 15 sars. It costs £3,058 for 20 guests in Christmas week with the price rising for extra visitors. Details, 01647 433593.

Cruising

OAKLEY Court Hotel, Windas part of a three-night festive break. The hotel offers all the trimmings from midnigh mass to mulled wine and mince ples in a Victorian country house atmosphere. The price for three nights' full board is £435 a person. Details, 01753 609968.

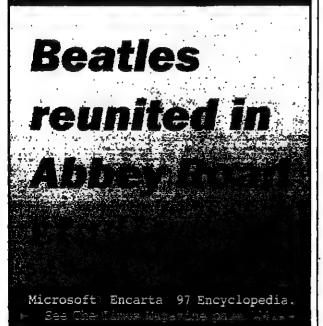
For singles

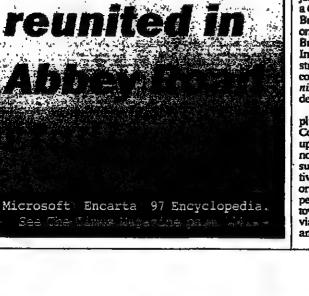
SOLO's, which specialises in holidays for single people, is offering a three-night Christmas break with dancing every evening at the Aubrey Park Hotel, Hertfordshire. Other attractions include a full Christmas lunch, a tour of Roman St Albans, a pantoboard price is £309 a person. Details: 0181-951 2800.

Get active FOR THOSE who want a

really active Christmas, a walking tour and activity break, both based at Pencerrig Hotel on the Welsh border, are on offer from Acorn Activities from December 23 to 26. Both include a traditional Christ-mas lunch and full board with the walking holiday (£170 a person) featuring trips ted by guides along the River Wye. The activity break (£250 a person) includes mountain bike riding, whitewater raft-ing and abselling. Details, 01432 830083.

TONY DAWE.







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Iceland back in business

ICELAND's tourism was put back in business on November 27 when the road over Skeidarasandur, part of Highway I that circles the country, was reopened. Bridges and part of the road were swept away by flooding after the ice melted under Europe's largest glacier. Vatnajokull, following the eruption of the Loki volcano on October 1. Skidoo trips on the glacier, fishing

and four-wheel-drive safaris are popular summer activities. Swim-ming is possible in the geothermal Blue Lagoon even in winter, while Reykjavik has almost reached cult status as a city break destination following reports the part purchase of a case there by Damon Albarn of

Latest information from Iceland Tourist Board (0)71-388 7550).

Secret Spain

SPECIALISING mainly in Italy, Fine Art Travel (0171-437 8553) has introduced a week's Madrid and Toledo tour for October next year, led by former British Ambassador to Spain and hispanophile Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox who, it is hoped, will be able to unlock the secretive doors of Spain's private bouses and collections in and around Madrid.

(a) north

Private visits on the tour include the Palacio de Galiano at Toledo, the Casa de la Rambla at Segovia and the Palacio de Liria in Madrid, The Prado, the Thyssen-Bornemisza Collection and the Escorial are also on the itinerary.

In the Italian programme, private visits to the Sistine Chapel, escorted by Robin Lane Fox, will prevent guests being jostled by the hoi polloi on a tour of Rome. He also accompanies an autumn trip to Florence on which one of the private visits is to the Palazzo Frescobaldi, in the same family for over 1,000

The tours cost about £2,400.

Make tracks

RAIL passes and discount cards for children, under 26s, couples and over 80s are listed in the Rail Shop 1997 guide (0181-880 8160). With the Euro-Domino Freedom Pass, you can travel as far as you like on any three, five or ten days during the month in 19 European countries and. Morocco. Prices start at £105 for three days within France, £85 for

£12-£87 for sleeping accommodation.

Turkey treat
TURKISH specialist Tapestry Holidays (0181-742 0055) promises uncrowded resorts, flexible itineraries and hotels of character away from commercialisation and mayhem. Holidaymakers staying at the

harbour town of Kalkan, who want to sample a voyage in a traditional wooden boat, can take a two or three night cruise as part of their fortnight, costing an extra £120 full board. A week's B&B at the Hotel Yelken in Kalkan starts at £309, two weeks £379. From the Hotel Physics in

Turune Bay, a resort that is still unspoilt despite increasing numbers of day trippers from Marmaris. spring and autumn guests can participate in special theme weeks consisting of walks, drives and picnics to historical sites, Turkish baths and fishing villages. A week's self catering at the Physics starts at £319, two weeks from £409. The theme weeks cost £150 extra.

Coach deal

COACH operator Eurolines (0990 143219) has increased its daily 7/2-hour service to Paris from twice to three times a day during the closure of the Channel Tunnel. A full adult return costs £43, under 26s and over 60s pay £39. Ideal for a visit to the

High note

WITH a programme of 100 different operas in 34 destinations, mostly in Europe but some as far afield as Glimmerglass in the US, JMB Travel (01905 428401) offers holidaymakers the flexibility of choosing their own dates, means of travel and performances. New for next year, the season at

the Théatre de la Monnaie in Brussels, built on the site of an old Mint, includes Tristan und Isolde, Peter Grimes and Ariadne au Naxos. Prices are from £319 for two nights B&B, including opera tickets and return travel.

Ski America

AMERICAN skiing is now competing with Continental prices - and snow conditions are superb. Be-tween January 10 and February 26 Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) offer return flights to Boston in New England, seven nights B&B accom-modation in Littleton, New Hampunder 26s. For Motorailers, a new modation in Littleton, New Hamp-Calais-Rimini service takes 19 shire plus self-drive car hire, costing from £322 single, from £349. Skiling on Heavenly's ferry crossing.

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modation, plus car rental, costs from £369, while seven nights' accommodation for skiing on Mammoth and June mountains in California with flights to LA costs from £399 including the car hire.

Note that the "free" car hire excludes damage waiver and local taxes, which in New England, for example, cost \$147, or £92 for a

Scottish sail

ABERDEEN will host the start of the 1997 Cutty Sark Tall Ships race between July 12 and 15, as more than 80 square-rigged sailing ships as-semble in the city for the race which goes on to Trondheim and Stavang-er, finishing in Gothenburg. The 3,000 crew members expect to

be joined by half a million spectators for a series of events culminating in the Parade of Sail, the traditional farewell of the ships as they move to the start line.

Plane pass

CAMPUS Travel (0171-730 3402) offers students and under 20s British Skytrekker Airpasses from about £27 per flight. With a five coupon air pass costing £139, the holder could take in London, Guernsey, Plymouth, London again, Aberdeen and back to London, Seven coupons cost £189, three coupons cost £89. All travel must be completed by September 17.

Irish abode

THE Romans never came to Ire-land, so relieving the tedium of straight roads," explains the new Country Cottages of Ireland (0990) 851177) brochure, the latest offering from the Thomson-owned English Country Cottages Group. There are properties from restored Georgian country houses, to simple converted cottages sleeping two.
Scarrif View Cottage in Co Kerry

is half a mile from the village and its pub, four miles from the beach, there is an inglenook fireplace and low beamed sloping ceiling in the bedrooms for hitting heads. It sleeps four (plus cot) and costs from £509 for a week in early May - £956 in high season, both including the car

The Georgian Richmond House is in the Clare Lakes area of Corofin, its grounds overlooking the River Fergus, It can sleep nine plus a baby in a cot, and a meal service is available. The house costs from £1,146-£1,666 a week, including the



The Venus de Milo in the Louvre: Eurolines coaches go to Paris

tainside float between curtains

In the valleys, vast lime-

stone mounds loom out of the

fog like giant sailboats adrift

In Vietnam's recent tourist

boom, the north west has been

virtually ignored. This is curi-

ous, because it is perhaps the

country's most spectacular and interesting region. Near the Chinese border,

Vietnam's highest mountains

- forested peaks that the French called the Tonkinese

Alps" - soar to more than

Villages of bamboo stilt-

houses squeeze into steep val-

leys. A quiltwork of paddy

fields covers every flat space,

100 different shades of green.

Peasants wade knee-deep in

the water, planting, then har-

The hill tribes here are

closely related to those of

northern Thailand and Laos.

There are three groups:

Hmong. That and Xao. The

stilt-houses by the rivers are Thai, while the Hmong and

Xao live in the hills in earth-

Inside, most homes are sin-

gle rooms with no furniture.

except one or two large beds.

Possessions are basic: crock-

ery preserved from the days of

the French, chopsticks, wok,

floored dwellings.

in a sea of paddy fields.

of cloud.

9,000ft.

vesting, rice.

Night-time is the right time

INSIDER'S

GUIDE TO

here are untold faux pas waiting to be made in the subterranean world of the Paris nightclub. For a d'Or, an old railway station start, night-life does not begin until the early morning showing up at a club before lam is seen as gauche or desperate. Then there is the struggle to cross the thresholdof-the-moment, denied if you are not on some secret guest list or one of "les lookes" - the trendy and beautiful.

This week's trends — it is too risky to predict much further - include the continuing rise of salsa, tango and samba nights as well as world parties; the appearance of small, late drinking clubs and restaurants;

and the disco revival. Dedicated clubbers weigh their ontions seriously. consulting the monthly Nova magazine, and its listings section. detailing specific nights at each club. one-off

raves and events. prices and addresses. In the latest edition Nova provides a guide to the clubs who let women or les nanas in free at the start of the night, in order to lure *les mecs* — the guys. This is helpful, since most

clubs charge Fro0 to Fri40, and drinks are very expensive. For daily club news, tune into Radio Nova on 101.5MHz at 6pm. In Figaroscope in Wednesday's Figaro newspaper, there is a Nuctume listing of clubs and parties. Otherwise, the Time Out English section of Pariscope magazine provides a limited guide.

The old-fashioned 1930 dance-hall Le Balajo has regained prominence with its Latino nights, as has La Java in Belleville, but be warned that French clubbers tend to take lessons in salsa or tango and display their expertise. Nothing more embarrassing than being whisked off by a snake-hipped Frenchman, only to lumber in his arms. The serious attention paid to dancing means that the Latino clubs are not forced into becoming a meat market.

Also in the increasingly happening Belleville-Menilmontant area is La Fleche converted into a bar with mismatched tables and an equally mismatched clientele. It is more scruffy than glitzy. but incredibly right-on, with bands and dancing at the weekends.

The true disco experience can still be had at Queen, a large gay club which has mixed nights including Satur-day. Platform boots and glitter may be worn for disco, although there are also more mainstream techno house nights. Les Bains is Eurotrash

heaven, with rich men in suits and supermodels dancing in the former Turkish baths. Ordinary human beings consider themselves lucky to be able to pay the large admission fee — the doorperson is Marilyn, an enormous woman

with unfathomable tastes. For those who just want to dance and have a good time without dracunian door policies, the twice-monthly Bal on Saturdays at the Elysée Monunar-

tre is a good bet. Both the Metro and the limited evening bus service stop just after midnight. Night buses run every hour on a few routes, but most people take

At popular late-night places, such as Chatelet and the Bastille, there is often a long wait at ranks, making it worthwhile to walk home or call a taxi before you leave the

KATE MUIR

● La Java, 105 Rue Faubourg du Tempic, 11th, 42 02 20 52 ● Le Balaju, 9 Rue de Lappe, 11th, 47 00 07 87

● La Fleche d'Or, 102 his Rue de Bagnolet, 20th, 43 72 42 44 ● Qucen, 102 Avenue de Champs-Elysées, 8th, 42 89 31 32 ■ Les Bains. 7 Rue du Bourgl'Abbé, 3nt, 48 87 01 80 Boulevard Rochecheuart, 18th, 44

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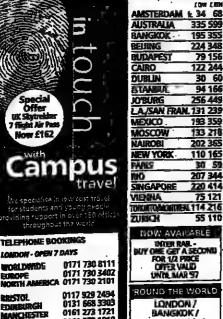
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vacuum flask and, perhaps, a battered tape recorder. The tribes divide into subgroups identified by dress: blue, red, white, black and PARIS multi-coloured versions of each, plus the Money Xao. One of the most who use old Chinese coins as Romantic cities decoration. in the world Most people wear traditionfrom \$169 60 great city breaks 0181 7807700

al dress, with intricate patterns that announce the wearer's tribe, village and status. Many groups have migrated from southern China only recently, ignoring official borders. There is, naturally, a catch

to all this scenery and ethnography. There are almost no hotels or hostels, apart from in Dien Bien Phu, site of the decisive battle that ended French rule. Nor is there much in the way of information. banks, or English-speakers. Travel is a challenge, but one whose rewards justify the discomfort.

As the Victnamese remain unconvinced that tourists realtly are allowed to use local

Across Vietnam by motorcycle Mark Mann rode off the tourist

ead west from Hanoi and the landscape is and the landscape is straight out of a Chitrail in South-East Asia to see nese watercolour. Crags hang suspended in mist, and disstunning views and roasted dog jointed fragments of moun-

Vietnamese people use the road as a meeting place

rare, crowded and unbelievably uncomfortable), the best way to get around is to rent a 4WD car in Hanoi - or, as we did, some motorcycles. A guide is essential to communicate and arrange accummedation.

Away from Hanoi's chaotic mess of bicycles and mopeds the roads are almost empty, but still full of unexpected obstacles. On wet, winding mountain passes, lorries emerge from the fog like ghosts - the Vietnamese are convinced that using a headlight costs money. Bicycles are exempt from any road rules. There are potholes, loose

rocks, fallen trees, rivers to ford, bambon bridges, unsurfaced sections and endless tight curves. Straight, flat stretches? There are none.

These are minor details. The real problem is that the road (not just the edges of it, either) is an extension of everyone's living room. Children rush unexpectedly out of their houses; women chat or sit cooking: crops are left to dry, dogs fight: men chop wood. vendors sell fruit: goats, pigs, chickens and water-buffalo feed. Nobody takes any notice of traffic.

In the event, I had only one minor crash - a cyclist who swerved suddenly as I was overtaking. None of the by-standers looked surprised to see me sliding along underneath my bike. Our guide. Jean-Paul was once a major in the North Vietnamese Army and ran our trip like a military

we were somehow under his command, "Now you eat," he would order. Or, grabbing a bemused hill-tribe woman. 'take her photograph". My companion Barbara would get off their bike (she was riding pillion behind him) fuming "if he tells me when to wave once more I'm going to kill him".

We bought supplies in bustling little markets full of hilltribe women in colourful headdresses, trying to ignore the cooked dogs that lay chopped into pieces like gruesome selfassembly kits. A roasted head sat beside each dismembered carcass, teeth bared.

n the evenings we atc. cross-legged on the floor. L in the home of families we had met only half-an-hour earlier. Jean-Paul simply asked at the nearest house if we could stay. Nobody re-fused. Like the Three Kings, we came bearing gifts, although ours were an unhealthy trinity of sweets. cigarenes and monosodium glutamate powder.

After dinner the men smoked tobacco in bamboo waterpipes while wide-eyed, open-mouthed "staring committees" gathered to watch us. We began to feel more like touring exhibits than tourists. The crowd watched us go to bed. We sometimes awoke to find them still gawping in the morning. Had they been there all night?

We slept with a half-dozen people every night, for there is no such thing as a spare bed country and most Vietnamese have never slept in a bed alone. I wondered how they produce so many children in such circumstances.

When we asked where the toilet was. Jean-Paul would demand "is it a stee or a pres". Heated debate ensued among our hosts. I wondered what they were discussing, for the answer was always "outside". Onlookers would then gather to watch me go, as if unsure what might come out.

Conversation focused on four questions, embracing the fundamental concerns of rural Third World life. "Where are you from?" "Are you married?" "How many children?" "How old are you?" After that, everyone looked puzzled.

What were we doing in their village, with no apparent purpose except to get back to Hanoi, which we had only just left? What was the point of tourism? And why were we not married, especially as we were horribly wrong with us?

The only foreigners most people under 40 had ever seen were the now-departed Soviet soldiers and technicians, universally despised for their unfriendly arrogance. The Vietnamese, ironically, speak of them with an animosity totally absent in reference to Americans.

On our bikes, crowds formed to cheer us through villages, like Damon Hill winning the British Grand Prix. Excited children jumped up and down, shouting to alert their friends.

Out of nowhere, a surreal stretch of perfectly-surfaced and deserted motorway led back to the vibrant streets of Hanoi, I stopped to have a broken brake-lever welded by a man sitting on the pavement with a blow-torch. Then we returned the bikes and staggered off to get drunk.

● Campus Travel (0171-730-8111) can book return flights to Hanoi from Heathrow or Manchester for £760 juntil December 23) or £613 in January. Minimum stay of seven mights, maximum six months. ● Jean-Paul Thinh: II Ngo Nguyen Thai Hoc. Pho Hang Chuo, Hanoi, (Telephone: Hanoi 23 13 83.) He speaks French. but not English. You can hire motorcycles in Hanoi for US\$10 per day. An offroad motorcycle is best. Jean-Paul charges L'S\$10 per person daily. Other costs come to under US\$5 daily. ● Three Moons in Victnam. A Haphazard Jaurney by Boot and

Bicycle, by Maria Coffey, is published next month by Abacus

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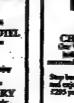
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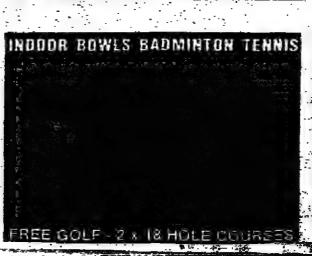
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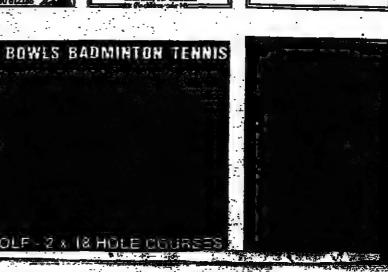
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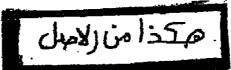


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by Raymond Keene

THE Estonian grandmaster Paul Keres set an extraordinary record by coming second (or joint second) in four world championship candidates' tournaments, those of 1953, 1956, 1959 and 1962. Additionally, at the AVRO tournament of 1938, he shared first prize with the American grandmaster Reuben Fine, ahead of no fewer than four past, present and future world

champions. He was still able to demonstrate super class, 25 years later, when he again shared the top honours with the world champion of the day.

Tigran Petrosian, in a tournament composed only of the elite. While he was active, Keres collected his best games into a series of anthologies. The first, The Road to the Top, containing 51 games, has now been reissued, in simplified modern algebraic notation as used in this column, edited by John Nunn (Batsford, £15.99). This game is a superb example of Keres's tactical skills, culminating in a sacrificial breakthrough on h7, with f7 one of the main Achilles heels of the fortifications of a castled black king.

White: Paul Keres Black: Reuben Fine Queen's Gambit Declined d5 2 d4 Nf8 e6 4 Nc3 e5 Nxd5 6 e4 Nxd cxd4 6 cxd4 Bb4 bxd2+10 Qxd2 0-0 O. Nxc3 barce Bb4+

The opening has been standard. White has a strong pawn centre, with a potential passed pawn in the d-file, good development and some makings of an attack against the black king. On the other hand though, Black has no obvious weaknesses, and has also succeeded in effecting simplification which could make it hard for White to attack.

11 ... Nd7 12 0-0 b6 13 Red1 Bb7 14 Rfe1 Rc8 15 Bb3 Nf6 16 Q14 Qc7

Evidently an exchange of queens would be entirely in Black's favour. After such a trade, White's attacking chances would evaporate, and Black's majority of pawns on the queen's flank would be at least as

significant as Whate's centre pawns. Instead of this supine course, Keres transfers his queen into direct alignment with the black

king. 17 ... Rfd8 18 Re3. In his notes Keres prefers the immediate 18 e5, though after 18 . . . Nd5 19 Ng5 h6 20 Ne4 Nc3 21 Nf6+ Kh8 things are not disa.

b4 · 21 d5

Having massed his forces, White must strike. Further delay would allow Black gradually to profit from his own powerful passed pawn on b4. With the text, White prepares to hurl all his forces at the black king.



Black should have preferred 23 ... h6, when great complications arise after 24 e6 hxg5 25 ex(7+ Kxd7

24 Noch7. A brilliant breakthrough on one of Black's most sensitive squares, even though it appears to be heavily guarded.

24 . . . Nizh? 25 Rh3 Oct. An ingenious riposte, speculating on the weakness of White's back rank The attacked knight on h7 cannot move, of course, in view of Qh8 mate. Nevertheless, Keres can now power through with a brutal from tal assault.

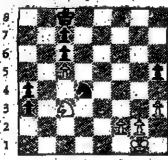
26 Oxin7+ KS6 27 Mines 44 26 Ohe+ Ko7 26 Oxe7 Mis 30 Of6+ Ke6 31 46

Black resigns, After the forced 31 . dxe3 32 ext7+ Rxf7 33 Bxf7+ Kd7 34 Qe6+ Black either leses his queen or is mated. In the midst of this, 32 . . . Kd7 33 Qe6+ Ke7 34 Rxcl+ is also fatal for Mack.

By Raymond Keene

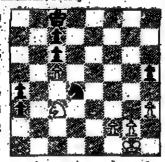
Black to play. This position is from the game Sedina - Miles, Jakarta 1996. An outside passed pawn is a tricky customer for a knight. Here White's knight on c3 seems to have the opposing a-pawns under con-trol, but Black's next move proved MISC MINE MES IC

Send answers on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society, including a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's in the Strand. The artswer will be published next



Last week's winner: D Gerst,





Last week's solution: 1 ... Not

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PUNCHLINE :

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from
The Strand Magazine
(reproduced with permission irom Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

again next week on the Games page with a caption from those submitted. Send caption suggestions on a nostcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 29). Weekend Games Page

The cartoon will be printed

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 11.

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IN FRONT OF THE OVERTURNED STOOL LAY A LUMP OF CLAY, A SHAPELESS MESS

"Why should we pay full fare to return on the Channel Tunnel? We were only !! when we came over The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Chris Wilson of Beckley, Oxfordshire

A - Continue of the second

By Philip Howard

a. A heraldic blazon b. Consideration

YOKOHAMA a. A card game b. A throw at ju-jitsu

VOLSELLA a. An Alpine flower

c. Tweezers VACCARY

c. A feudal rent holiday

WORD-WATCHING

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c. A cheval-de-frise

c. A long-tailed fowl

b. A turn at dressage

a. A dairy farm b. A New Forest moss

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

COMPUTERS THAT attempt to I have shown all four hands, but play bridge have not so far progressed beyond beginner level. Bob Hamman's recent scathing remark about the existing programs was: They'll have to improve to be hopeless." Nevertheless there are some good uses of computers in bridge. The teaching program Bridge Master is an example. It was written by Fred Gitelman, a member of the Canadian team which came runner-up in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl.

What the program does is to give you a dummy play problem. As you play, the cards for the completed tricks are removed. If there is a sure-tricks line, then if you take another line it won't succeed - the program cunningly moves the vital cards around to make certain the second-best line fails. Then when the hand is over the screen displays all four hands, and gives an analysis of the correct line. The program has 180 hands, classified into are five categories of difficulty. The hand below is an example from category three.

+432 YKOJ109 +7 +OJ108	+087 ▼543 •K8 +K5432 N W E	+85 ¥878 +QJ1098 +876
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Answers on page 17 Lead: king of hearts .

when you play, only the cards held by declarer and dummy are visible. You arrive in Six Spaces with no opposition bidding. You would be quite happy to be in Seven Spades after winning the heart lead and unblocking the ace of clubs you can cross to dummy with the king of diamonds and throw your losing heart on the king of clubs. Then you play a diamond to the ace, and if that survives you have the rest of the tricks on a high cross-ruff.

However if you try that line in Six Spades, West ruffs your ace of diamonds and returns a trump, leaving you a trick short. The computer announces bleakly that your rating is "Incorrect".

What you must do is to start as above, but after cashing the king of clubs duck the second round of diamonds. That preserves the ace

Now you are in a position to ruff two diamonds, and draw trumps, and finally cash the ace of diamonds. If you manage that, your rating is displayed as "Hamman" or "Zia", or the next on the

program's list of star names. I liked the program. In many ways it is an improvement on just reading a hand in a book. But it costs £60 for 180 hands; for that you could get half-a-dozen or so decent books.

I must stress that you need a personal computer to run Bridge Master, It comes in Dos or Windows versions, and is available from Chess and Bridge (0171-388 2404).

If you have any doubts about whether you have the right equipment, you can phone Chess and Bridge for more information.

expert Magnus Magnusson born?"

Answers, on a postcard please,

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

TO CHILL out at the end of the day with something exotic and totally undersanding, take the plunge with Artdink's Aquanaut's Holistay. A deep-sea exploration with no predetermined beginning, middle or end, it can easily fill a lazy hour or two and you'll encounter every-thing from vibrant shoals of small fry to turtles, dolphins, whales and

even (harmless) sharks. The PlayStation title places you in charge of an international oceanographic institute, your mission to establish a thriving, colourful coral reef colony. This is done by laying vast blocks of feed, experimenting with different arrangements to get the best results from your fishy residents. In time, they will come to visit and may stay, or you can drift off any time in your submersible to seek them out for yourself. Inhabitants come in all shapes and sizes can attempt to strike up a relationship by emitting a choice of sonar sounds from your sub. Only in time do you know which arrangements attract or deflect which fish. They all look beautiful but,

rather alarmingly, can be paper-. thin as they turn around. Some swim around or flip over when you communicate with them but a few

more adventurous tricks would have been good. Still, there is something delightfully alluring about Aquanaut's Holiday although perhaps a real fish tank might be more relaxing at the end of the day. Aquanaut's Holiday is not for those in need of instant gratification. It takes a good ten

hours to get going so it's vital to be able to save your game. One of PlayStation's drawbacks is the lack of a built-in save facility. To do this you need a plug-in memory card, such as Datel's Memory 'Card Plus. One of the largest cards around, it stores up to 120 games. Should you reouire even more PlayStation save options, Datel also makes the Memory Disc Drive which allows you to · discs.

Sliding across from the console. to the PC market, Sega's Ecco the Dolphin is a beautifully-rendered eco-irlendly platform same on CD-Rom. There's a fine rhythm to the action as you guide a dolphin high diving and ducking through the water to save family and friends. Atmospheric dolphin song accom-

by Tim Wapshott



Everything from small fry to sharks feature in Aquanaut's Holiday

through all 30 levels. From Dolphins to Dalmatians as Disney prepares to spring its live 101 Dalmatians on us, starring Glenn Close as Cruella de Vil. The new version differs from the original by giving kindly Roger Raddiff a new job -- instead of a songwriter he's now a games programmer working, most fortuitously for Dis-

ney, on 101 Dalmatians The CD-Rom. The game is even plugged boldy in the closing credits but, to save you trawling the shops in vain in the run-up to Christmas, it's not scheduled for release here until the New Year. The only current title offer-

ing you a Dalmatian to play with is Oddhallz - and that's only momentarily. Following in the traditions of Dogz and Catz, Mindscape's Oddballz allows you to adopt a pet which lives in the computer. You feed, play and stroke it regularly and it grows into a faithful computer companion. In Oddballz the weird animals have largely canine characteristics. In one case the creature becomes a Dalmatian then, I think, a rabbit,

normal self. If you haven't yet entered Cyberspace Twenty-Eight there is still time - but you'll have to be quick. Entries must reach us by Tuesday, December 10. We have a

dozen copies of BBC's excellent

Mastermind CD-Rom to be won.

To enter, answer the following: "In

which country was archaeology

together with your name, age, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Twenty-Eight, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, London El 9XN. The first 12 correct entries plucked out of the postbag will win. Finally, thank you to everyone who entered Cyberspace Twenty-Seven. We asked which 1960s star

sang on the Pet Shop Boys hit What Have I Done To Deserve This? Suggestions included Marianne Faithfull and Sandie Shaw but the answer was, of course, Dusty Springfield. Our 12 winners, who each receive copies of PSB's Videography Video CD are: lain Roberts of Edinburgh, Malcolm Bampton of Southport, Thomas Brambill of Essex, David Smith of London, Jane Theaker of Sheffield. Robin Arnfield of Oxfordshire, David Littlewood of Lincolnshire. Jon Sendel of Sheffield, Ian Anderson of Merseyside, Anthony Ellis of Wolverhampton and Priest of Hertfordshire.

"Cruella de Vil. If she doesn't scare you. no evil thing will." From the Disney song, Cruella de Vil (101 Dalmatians, 1961).

THE USTENER CROSSWORD

No 3387: Explanations by Waterloo

WHERE two lights have the same number, one explains the other, consistently. Each of the other clues contains an explanatory word that is otherwise irrelevant. The explanation has to be applied once only in the process of deducing the light.

Depressing opening, unfortunately starting in an ineluctable situation, leading to accidental killing. Movement mother said is crazy inside. Secure spoon with upper-case initial instead of circle. Miss fish having mound of missing things. (3)
Brownie's mistake about points of the compass.
Get letter back after 3rd of July and make gross growth. He's altered history for delicacy. (6)
Without Bowdler, bowdlerise long story. (4)
Evil old castle's getting rid of heartless girl.
Something in the air which whisky-drinkers get. (3) 20 Good proviso - IRA man makes lovey-dovey remarks. (3) Wish we could be organised but not old. (3)

Power lost from returning throughout service.

Miser with hard heart coming back — three thousand it 22 23 makes a good foundation. (6) Get an idea and drop round after the revolu 25 27 Old marriage Spain's ruled out - and Jerusalem, for Before time, in Kensington, it's about four: after time, in 28 Edinburgh, it's one (about). Layout shows house with front and back switched

29 Einstein originally made wrong liquid in the wrong 32 New monism comes before a frantic crisis - monarch 27 brings them out. (8)

Heads have them behind state: list second half only. (4) Dancing dervish starting a fuss — stuff from pump is not enough to drink. (6) A reversed state - distress. (6) Poe's endlessly wanting poison, or what knives used to

Starting kissing Elizabeth by Scots town? This James I might have been king (4) Slash noise of noisy French noes. (3) 40

SP

SEPE

Coming with us, taking in repeated music, perhaps, and powdered places for young climbers. (Two words) Trimmer taxable returns eat away bliss. (3) There are usually straps to raise this excellent person in hell. (4)

Piss might compete with paint for a point (3) Cisco oilmen with old-fashioned our excuse. (6) Alison francic, inside out — last of Cinzano gone, treated as ale. (8) Bosses rub bruiser the wrong way in slight reverse. (6)

Insist last four in race show inside effect. (4) Brief period in defence. Peck drop of sealing wax. Get netting consisting of net.

Campaign for immediate introduction of orthopsedies taking the place of gym. Make sure about right brand. Daily rows beginning to have a negative effect on charisma. (3)

It's usual to make the sign of the cross once. Mixed union backing risked half bar strike. (6) River turtle partly demystified. Spats gathering for common purpose around sister

Stoker, perhaps, with a brisk god. (4)

commune (6) Taking short bathe, unfinished, shrinking from notice. James, possibly, getting in before and coming back for Horace, perhaps. Make an end of father inside, after beginning

externally. Old way simpleton loses piece of land.

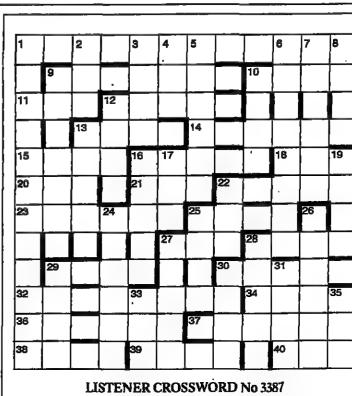
Ovens in Seine et Oise we plunge into water. (4) Opening fist to Italian thank you shows palm free. (3) Had shock with friend off piste. (3)

Solution to No 3324: NNOY LVOCKHE 14 x 31 By Mr Lemon DHANNHA OBEL RD EZMITYE ับ ABRDIGE ENS URA TESACBD A CM B LA C

The Title - 14 v 31 - RICHARD HANNAY v THE BLACK STONE, being the protagonists in the novel THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS by John Buchan. The grid contains 39 clues (the significant number); the 39 letters that take a "step" spell out: THE THIRTY-NINE STEPS J. BUCHAN LORD TWEEDSMUIR.

The winner is N.D. Hoare of London

The two runners-up are Geoff Loder of Bristol and R.A. Mostyn of Essex



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DOWN: 1 Hijacks 2 Ratio 3 Child's play 4 Rookie 6 Ezekiel 7 Tense 10 Tower block 14 Radical 16 Harness - 17 Jerome

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No 959

1 Rich piece of prose (6,5)

Sexually abstinent (8)

6 Most close; may also be

9 Teacher giving pastoral care (11)
12 The giving of expert opinions (tron.) (8)

16 Coat fastener; type of switch

19 Place where one is forgotten

20 Lodgings; disturbs ground

14 Display of temper (7)

Conurbation (4)

dearest (7)

4 False (6)

Construction worker (5)

ACROSS'

(in) (5)

10 Idler (8)

Alarm bell-push (5.6)

11 List of dishes, options (4)

13 Root Raleigh brought us (6)

pander (6) Fish: an eccentric (rev.) (4)

15 Busy activity; old skirt-ex-

18 Lear's loving daughter (8)

23 Unknown-destination ex-

21 Causing pain (7)

cursion (7.4)

SOLUTION TO NO 958

18 Lunar 20 Krone

22 Monotone 23 Rely 24 Reckless

22 Entice (5)

8 Canal-side way (7)

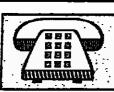
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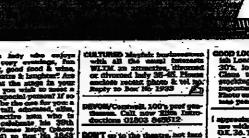


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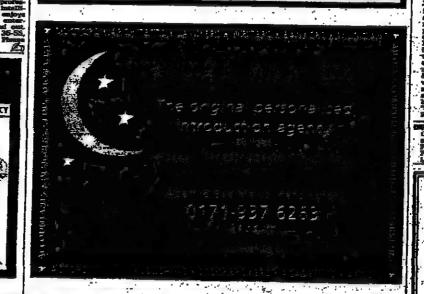
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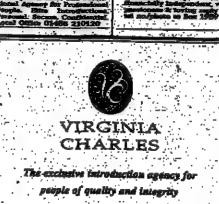
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Are you sitting comfortably enough to be safe? Page 5



dousing in the desert holds up **Thrust**



SATURDAY DECEMBER 7 1996

Tacky style but a groovy drive

Bridget Harrison found Ford's Ka

full of pretentious gimmicks — then

she sat behind the wheel. It made

her feel like a girl racer and left even the Mini standing

he Ka, Ford claims, is set to be the style statement of the Nineties. It will be a car that people buy, not only out of need, but out of desire. In the Ka's tiny size and radical looks, Ford is hoping to reproduce the classic appeal of the Mini which has maintained style, origi nality and popularity for almost 40 years. It has already named it "the Mini for the new millennium", but will car buyers agree?

Spending millions on advertising and marketing to target drivers with "an attitudinal mindset", Ford launched the Ka to great farfare at Conran's Mezzo in London's Sobo with a glitzy party that included The Big Breakfast's Sharron Da-vies and "It Cirl" Tamera Beckwith. With this in mind, my

For a start, I have an instant aversion to driving a car whose sense of style has been contrived by marketing men in grey suits; let alone promoted by Ms Beckwith. Second, would any driver with an iota of originality and flair wish to be seen in a Ford? The small blue emblem has stamped too many Cortinas, Escorts and Sierres to be taken seriously as a symbol of style.

screamingly apparent as soon as you set eyes on it. its body is rounded, al-most like a Beetle, with shapely curves and dinky headlights that shine like eyes. Its features have been designed to make it stand out from the crowd. and appeal especially to women. The effect is too

In contrast, the Mini started life as a doodle on the back of a cigarette packet. Invented in 1959 by Sir Alec Issigonis, who had the brainwave of fitting the engine into a 2ft area by turning it sideways, the Mini was revolutionary in automobile design. The first fourseater car with a length of just 10ft, and under £500 in price, it reflected a time of both technical and social revolution.

By the swinging Sixties everyone who was anyone owned a Mini - the Beatles, Bowie, Jagger, Twiggy, Paul Newman and Steve McQueen, even Enzo Ferrari. In the Seventies it had become such a symbol of British life that inflation was mea-

sured by its price.

Apart from a few other little gerns such as the Beetle, Citroen 2CV and

Renault 4, no car has come close to the character of the Mini. But in a sense, the Ka is also a reflection of its time. After years of churning out bland cars, manufacturers are trying to put character and style back into their products. A revolution of niche marketing and packaging is upon us and there is no better example than the Ka.

and it is almost possible to hear the . make a compartment for make up,

brains of Ford's designers ticking over. The dashboard resembles a space capsule, jazzed up with a pretty white speedometer, natty luminous clock and dinky eyeball air vents. Although practical and user friendly, these added touches are unbearably contrived.

Instead of a shelf, the Ka has a better example than the Ka.

One glance at the Ka's interior its dashboard. This pops open to

and ingeniously turns over to reveal a storage box for CDs. Totally over the top, the feature is nothing but naff and inconvenient for anyone who likes to have a few possessions cluttering their dash-

Dinky designing aside, the most unforgivable mistake Ford has made is in choosing such a terrible name. Once again, the men in grey

as if it was a quiet country roundabout and I lane-barged as defuly as the toughest of black cabs. With "Girl in a Sports Car" blasting on the stereo, I was transformed into a slick chick on a mission and unquestionably the toughest totty on the road. The Ka

may have been over-designed on the exterior, but inside I was cool. Struggling across London in a Mini is, sadly, not a comparable experience. Laden down with two ssengers, in serious traffic and grappling with a clunky clutch was enough to give me footache for a week. Hyde Park Corner became a jungle of juggernauts and towering coaches which left me sweating.

speak obscure common sense and

taste. "Ka" apparently means "life force and soul" in Egyptian. No

doubt Ford thought the association

a clever idea. However, the reality

leaves one at a total loss when using the word. Only a catchy nickname, like the Beetle (original-

ly called the Volkswagen, Hitler's

power steering and fast accelera-

tion under my belt, I suddenly felt as mean as any man in a Mercedes.

I found myself burning round Hyde Park Corner in the rush hour

y firm cynicism to-wards the Ka only

began to melt when I

People's Car) might save it.

Small hopes for AD2000

THE race is on to find the Mini for the millennium. Carmakers are ready to roll out a line of new models — starting with the Ford Ka, launched as much for its style as its practicality. But Mercedes is preparing its new A-class car, which will be ready in two years, and then will come the new Mini, the version for the year 2000 of the car which

defined the word and the class.

What it will be like, we have no idea. And will it ever be able to live up to the original Mini, which even managed to have an entire film - The Italian Job — devoted to it?

We have driven the revamped 1997 version, though, and compared it with the Ka and 21 other competitors in the market for minis and superminis. Turn to pages 2 and 3.

Another car nudging at the Mini market is the Fiat Cinquencento. In

my opinion this little number does

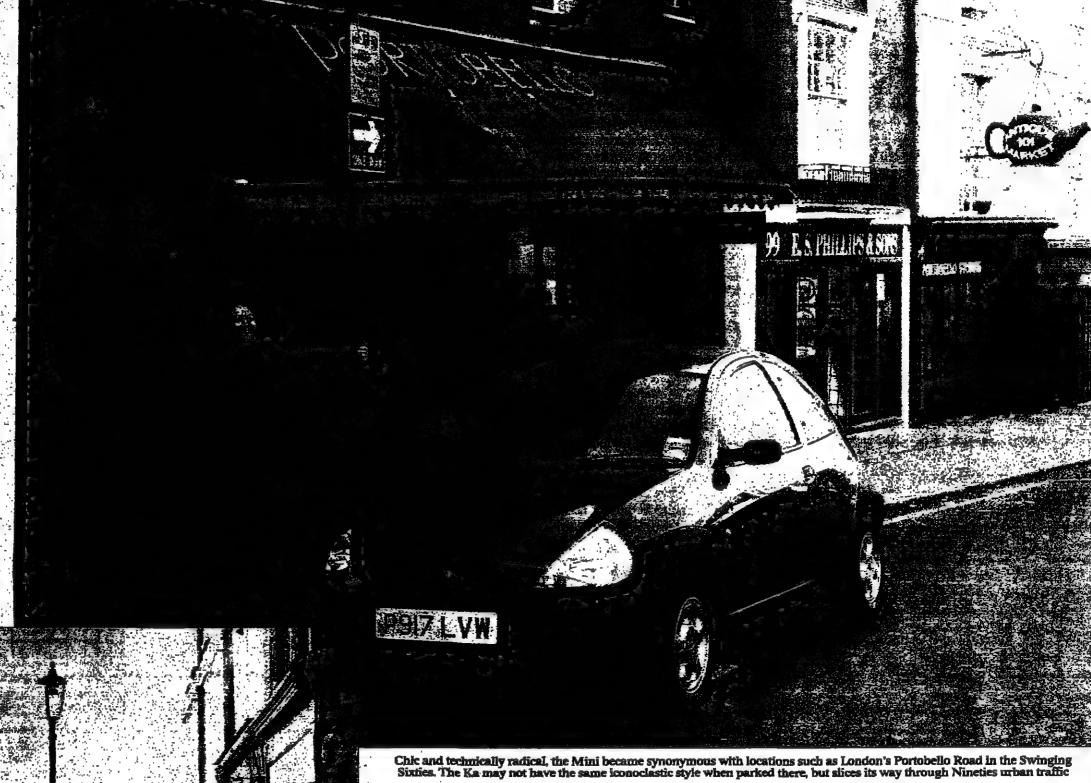
not deserve a look in. No doubt

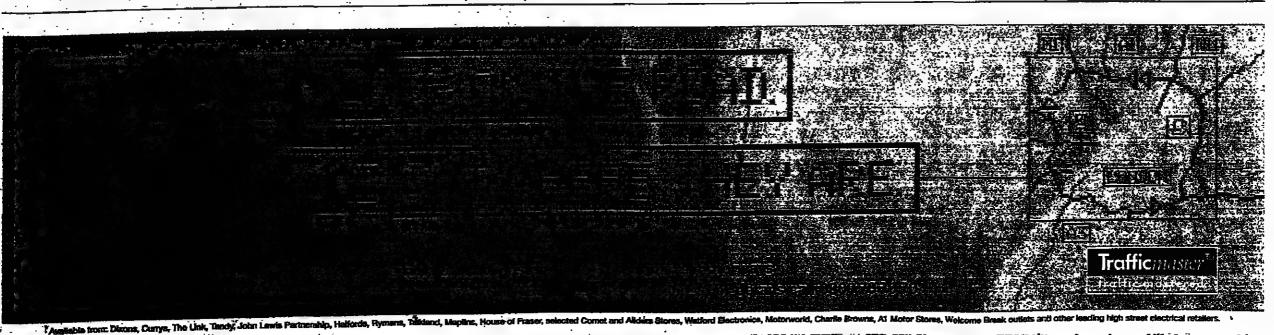
Starring the car: the Mini in The Italian Job

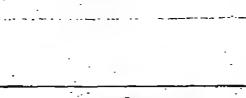
and no cab driver even acknowlis too twee and buggy-like ever to embody a sense of style. It is nippy and fun, but nothing special behind edged my existence. It was only alone on the open road, burning round corners with the engine vrooming as it did in The Italian the wheel and, more to the point, is used too frequently as a hire car on package holidays to be truly cool. Job, that I could really appreciate the Mini's true class.

I doubt if any car, however small or cunningly designed, will ever take the place of the Mini. Despite its faults, it will always remain the original of its kind. The Ka may be loved by its many owners, to me it just as good a reflection of its time. but only by its radical looks rather than the technology of its design. Nurtured with love and an icon

on the road, the Mini is a style classic. However, if an object of style can be derived not only from innovation, love and a past, but also from how it makes you feel, then the Ka may find a place in history yet. Not for its gimmicks, curves or dinky touches, but simply because it is groovy to drive.







In the age of the small, environmentally friendly car, what are the pros and cons out of more than 20.

fter the disappearance of Bob Mankhouse's gag book comes the loss of the script for making minis. Carmakers are rushing to market with a generation of small frugal cars designed to run around crowded towns and cities yet offer big car comfort and equipment.

There were already 22 minis, like the original Mini or Fiat Cinquecentu, or superminis - as their slightly bigger sisters are known on the market when Ford announced the launch of the Ka and accelerated the race for sales in the segment. Ford reckons the demand

for small cars like the Ka will jump in the next three years to more than i million across Europe by the end of the century.

Apart from the fact that we need cars that are easier to park, easier on fuel and easier on the environment, more families are becoming two or even three-car households. Apart from dad's company car. they want a people-carrier or a 4x4 for weekends and a runabout either for mum's shopping or the teenagers to drive.

But when the marketing men wrote their script for the future, they forgot the obvious. They asked

We only need certain minimal requirements

a new supermini and, not surprisingly, discovered potential buyers ran up a list which included almost everything but the kitchen sink. Of

steering. Amazing they didn't go on with air-conditioning, power steerto ask for a troop of dancing girls, 26-piece orchestra and candlelight dinner for four with the package. So the Ka arrived, a two-door hatchback with a basic price of

£7,350 -- £8,195 if you go for Ka2.

ing and the CD player. Meanwhile, the Mini - 38 years

after launch - goes on and on. Only now it comes stacked to the window panes with houry like a walnut dashboard and a stereo.

What went wrong? Surely the storyline for the future of small cars, which will cover relatively few miles weekly mainly in town, should be of bare, basic but technically accomplished small cars using new and cleaner fuel

Surely, this is a plot which should end with a range of new cars which are not only small but cheap. Of course buyers will vote for a CD player if they are given the

And it costs nearly £9,000. Buy iton two-year finance and it could cost you nearer to £10,500—the price of a decent mid-size family saloon.

Choice. But if their journey is only five miles long, they could manage with Classic FM for 20 minutes. When parents look for their teenager's car, they want safety first and low cost second.

When the Mini was launched, it had string-pull door openers, slid-ing windows and a single big speedo in the centre of the dashboard. It was cheap and fun, and it sold by the million. Today, the Ka is £1,000 too expensive, the Mini at least E3,000 over-priced. Cut the sticker-price and millions more will want small - but inexpensive



Size: Minimum length 3.531mm/width 1.575mm. Price: £6,350 to £6,700.

Against: Long-in-the-tooth, unrefined. Verdict: Almost past its sell-by-date, but cute styling and clever packaging make the AX worth a look for the money (some might even say it's more interesting than the Sexo). Be quick the place an order, though: the car is due to be phased out as Saxo takes over.



Size: Length 3,718mm/width 1,575mm Price: £7,350 to £9,390 For: Clean new look.

Against: No character Verdict: Surely, looks too bland by half to be a proper Citroen. What happened to the quirks which were so endearing? Better-equipped versions verge on the pricey side. Having said that, the Saxo is a good, if undistinguished, performer and deserves consideration.



Size: Length 3,750mm/width 1,620mm. Price: £7,795 to £10,335.

For: Everything works Against: So what? styling. Verdict: Someone, somewhere loves the Charade, but not that many people. Clever engine, but the ride is unpleasant and the cabin unwelcoming. Dealer coverage too far spread to make the Charade a reelly serious player in Sittain.



Size: Length 3.760mm/width 1,625mm. Price: £7,482 to £10,527. For A Flat that works.

free-fail, while durability is also a concern.

Against: Dating against rivals. Verdict: Classy rice, great engines and lots of fun. The Punto, former European Car of the Year, looks good and feels good, but serious players with an eye on their wallets might worry about resale prices, which have a tendency to



FORD FIRSTA Size: Length 3,628mm/width 1,634mm. Price: £7,645 to £11,315. For: New engines, new looks. Against: Avoid harsh 1.3 engine. Verdict: incredibly-improved old stager. Roomy, driveable, cute styling and extremely highly-equipped as well as aggressively priced. Go for the brilliant high-power/high economy 1.25 engine. Remarkable revemp for an ageing package to stey top of the sales chart.



KIA PRIDE Size: Length 3,556mm/width 1,600mm. Price: £5,489 to £6,749. For: Cheap. Against: Ugiy, old tech.

Verdict: Not worth the effort really. Thin dealer network flogging what is essentially a disguised old Mazda, Why pay the same for the technology of yesteryear when you can have the new stuff? Nothing special on offer here (assuming you can find one), so keep looking.



Size: Length 4,006mm/width 4,250mm. Price: £4,845 to £7,345. For: incredibly cheap.

Verdict: Only in the survey on price because it would be too big to consider otherwise. Much improved and looks better, but still too unsophisticated to compete with the rest. Cheap sticker price, but resale prices can be embarrassing. So spend a bit more to be sure.



MAZDA 121 Stee: Length 3,628mm/width 1,834mm. Price: 28,385 to £10,805. For: It works.

Against: it's a Flesta. Verdict: Why does Mazda need the 121, a rebedged Flesta made at Dagenham in Essex? The Japs want to boost their European sales using this Degenham clone, but for British buyers there is no point in switching. Ford's big dealer network sees to that. And for recommendation, er, see under Flesta.



MITSUBISHI COLT Size: Length 3,880mm/width 1,680mm. Price: £9,919 to £12,499. For: Reliable beyond belief Against: Anonymous.

Verdict: One thing you know about any Milsubishi Is that the quality and reliability are great - but that's about all you can say Another Japanese car without face or character which will work for ever, though parts will be expensive and the Coit will never thrill.



NISSAN MICRA Size: Length 3,695mm/width 1,585. Price: £7,195 to £10,595. For: Made in Britain.

Against: Looks like a pedal car. Verdict: Whether you like the styling or not is irrelevant if you want reliable, cheap city transport. Micra was Japan's first - and deserved - European Car of the Year. Great packaging, ride with legendary build quality — and it's made in Sunderland. Nothing more need be said.



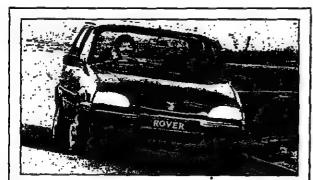
PEUGEOT 106 Size: Length 3,556mm/width 1,585mm. Price: £7,855 to £11,905. For: Best handling supermin.

Against: Too pricey. Verdict: Peugeot is very good at small cars, and it would be difficult to find a better drive in this category. Looks great, while the "hot" versions are a joy. The French company demands a premium price for excellence and equipment, but sometimes you need to spend more for the best.



RENAULT CLIO Size: Length 3,708mm/width 1,626mm. Price: £7,490 to £14,750. For: Nicole likes it. Against: So does Papa.

Verdict: Long-time favourite, and quite right too. Great drive, lots of room and distinctive styling make the Clic standout from the rest. Managed to stay fresh against competition and still appeals across a wide age range. RSI version a stunner.



ROVER 100 Size: Length 3,048mm/width 1,397mm. Price: £7 186 to £12,586 For: Great engines

Against: Older than Status Quo Verdict: Attempts to freshen a 16-year-old package tricky, but Rover has almost pulled it off. Only 18 months or so before Rover runs the car out of production, so a good buy with excellent K-series engines. Definitely worth a second took. especially if Rover deals offer discounts.



SEAT WICH Size: Length 3,683mm/width 1,600mm Price: £7,485 to £13,150. For: It's a Volkswagen.

Against: It's a what? Verdict: Difficult to make a car which sounds like a chair interesting, but Seat has a go. Ibiza built on VW floorpan with WW expenence, although Seat deliberately makes it cars sportier even if pretty expensive. Does have intriguing 1.8 16valve GT in the line-up too



SKODA PELICIA Size: Length 3,855mm/width 1,635mm. Price: 26,175 to 29,499.

For: WY quality control.

Against: indifferent styling.

Verdict: Your kids won't like this choice, but don't be put off by the badge because VW has resurrected Skoda. Canny pricing, even though the Felicia is bigger than most of the cars in the top 20, makes the Skoda an interesting and worthy contender in this segment.



* YTZUL URABUZ Size: Length 3,745mm/width 1,590mm. Price: £9,433 to £9,834. For: Four-wheel-drive. Against: Why?.

Verdict: Subaru has kept faith with pioneering four-wheeldrive whether the customer wants it or not. The Justy has got it and it works very nicely, thank you. But that makes the Justy pretty expensive and it's not particularly demure or lovely. So leave 4x4s to Land Rover.



Size: Length 3.708mm/width 1,575mm. Price: £6,720 to £10,175. Against: Noisy, basic. Verdict: Outsider in this survey, but one which performs well Suzuki not hugely well-known for its cars, but the Swift will get you around town happily enough, though it might seem a little crude and univelcoming against the best that

is on offer from the Europeans.



Size: Length 3,708mm/width 1,575mm. Prior: £8,352 to £11,469 For: it's a Toyota. Against: Who cares? Verdict: Ugh! That name Would you buy a starlet? Unimaginative name, styling and character - although they have put a lot of effort into the oncing. At least you know your Starlet, if not a machine made in heaven, will beat most earthlings for quality and reliability.



Size: Length 3,730mmAuidth 1,608mm. Price: £7,850 to £12,275. For: Good looking. Against: Poor ride Vendict: Corsa was launched in adverts with a bevy of supermodels, yet still falled to capture public irragination. Wide range, although the drive is a little rough and ready and interiors unsophisticated. Not a good position to be in with the launch of the Ford Ka now under way. A rethink is due.

FARE BUILT - & N ID HULE COURSES



VOLKSWAGEN POLO Size: Length 3,715mm/width 1,855mm. Price: £7,945 to £10,855. For: Build quality, shape. Against: interiors. Verdict: Probably the best all-rounder in the category. Roomy, excellent build quality, handsome styling and enjoyable to drive. You pay slightly more for a Polo, but there are no holes: you are paying to own effectively the benchmark supermini.

and who are the winners in this ferociously competitive sector? Alan Copps and Kevin Eason report



Out in front: from left, the Fiat 500 Cinquecento, the legendary Mini designed by Alec Issigonis and Ford's Ka, three examples of how small can be beautiful, practical, economical and ideal for driving in the streets of crowded cities

f you want to turn heads then the Ka is the thing to On my son's tenth birth-day we headed for London's Trocadero in this state-of-theart mini. Stuck fast in the Shaftesbury Avenue traffic something happened that occurs very rarely, even in the

Not once, but twice, people simply stepped off the pave-ment and rapped at the window to ask about the Ka. Park. this curvy little number anywhere and you are likely to return to a knot of people discussing its shape.

If Ford set out to design a vehicle that would attract attention, it has succeeded beyond all expectations. But how

You can't expect too many fireworks from the engine. Ford has equipped the Ka with the improved 1.3-litre Endura version of the unit that has powered the Fiesta for years, rather than the much more modern, economical and perkier 1.25-litre Zetec which has made recent Fiestas a pleasure to drive. It seems odd to put such a venerable design in a car that is being pushed so hard as a trendsetter, but Ford says it keeps costs down and that's vital because in this class of car cost is crucial and the Ka faces ferocious competition. The 1.3-litre engine also. offers utter predictability and puts long-term reliability beyond doubt. Cheap servicing and Ford's vast dealer netlvork will also play a large part in the equation for anyone

looking for a car of this size. Where Ka scores most heavily is in its excellent handling and roadholding. especially when allied to the power-assisted steering, standard on the up-market Ka 2 and a £395 option on the base model. In town the tightest parking space is yours, while on a country road the response is better than many a larger car. It is this all-round ability that takes the Ka from being merely cute to appealingly

ote for any one of three leaders

The newest, the classic original and an Italian job lead the field

The shape might be all curves and the interior may at first look gimmicky. But try getting from A to B and it is soon apparent that both are also functional. The Ka is as much fun to drive as the most nimble competitor, but also has an air of modernity and

sophistication that most lack. The controls are simple and come to hand readily and the driving position is more easily and thoroughly adjustable than in any of its rivals. The bubble shape gives excellent headroom front and rear and the expanses of glass in the cabin provide brilliant visibility, exactly what is needed if you're trying to do some nippy driving in heavy traffic.

The rotating dashboard cubby hole might smack of tiousness, but it solves the problem of where to store your CDs. Cup holders are a definite plus in a car of this size, as is the much larger rear cubby hole. The boot will hold

a full load of family shopping. What Ford has done is not ground-breaking as the Mini all those years ago, but it's a triumphant success com-

MINI

wo lanes of traffic in solid, single file as far as the eye could see. Nowhere to go and nowhere to turn to - except in a Mini. The opposite singlecarriageway was clear, so I simply spun the Mini into a quick turn and headed back the way I had come to turn off and into clear road, Kevin

The Mini is not just the retro-looking fashion accessory everybody seems to think it is these days. It is simply the best city car ever invented. Even 38 years after Sir Alec

Issigonis found a way to put four people into a box 10-feet long, nobody has managed the packaging better. You couldn't have spun the Ka in that narrow carriageway, or even the Cinquecento, come to that. Nor would either of them zip along so quickly, so niftily negotiating bends and turns, diving through tiny gaps that would normally have had me checking the wing mirrors to see if they were still there.

distance between seat and pedals insufferable. For the rest of us though, the

Mini is laugh-a-minute driving, a dream in the city where you can park on a sixpence -212p for our younger readers - and drill your way through even the heaviest traffic. Even on motorways, it will hold its own against the super-cruisers. But it is also noisy, harsh and unsophisticated, in spite of Rover's efforts to kid us otherwise by fitting a walnut dashboard, leather seats and lots of dials — and putting the

emission and crash tests. More powerful 1,275cc engine, tougher Koni shock absorbers and low-profile tyres on 13-inch wheels make the Mini as

Issigonis, with suspension guru Alex Moulton, solved the

problem of a harsh ride on such a small wheelbase early on and there is no unpleasant

S TO CITYE.

price up to nearly £9,000. Nonsense. The Mini should be as Issigonis intended it: bare, stripped down fun ... and cheap. Rover can throw away all the fancy walnut and leather: give me a speedo, fuel gauge, hardbacked seats even original string-pull door openers — and cut the price to £4,500. Then I might order two of them.

FIAT 500

n a tiny package, the Fiat 500 offers basic transport with the typical virtues of Italian cars: a sense of style on the outside and an engine that responds willingly to make driving a pleasure. Alan Copps writes. In its Sporting version it will cruise a motorway as happily as fit into the tiniest parking space

I drove an SX version backto-back with Ka to see how it fares against the latest competition. While the Cinquecento ning to show its age. The Ka is

erior in finish and comfort

But on grounds of price the endearing little Cinquecento remains the leading mini by a long way. At £6,591 on the road, the SX version is £1,229 cheaper than the cheapest Ka

given to test. Even the Cinquecento Sporting, the racy top-ofperforms any Ka in speed and economy, costs only £7,054 -10 per cent less than the cheapest Ka and almost

which takes a fraction of a

but which it beats for both top speed and economy. As a city car for short journeys, I still think the Ciriquecento is exceptional value. Even taking my wife and three-year-old daughter on a 100-mile househunting trip, it

passed the tolerance test. In these environmentally claimed as the most responsi-

introduced it in Italy as the first production car offered with the option of electric power. Very few electric versions have been sold, however. because of predictable problems of range and recharging. But the very idea suggests that this car, or a direct descendant, will be around well into



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Rover has updated the Mini pared to what Vauxhall tried so it can pass the latest exhaust remains an engaging car to so hard to do with the Corsa. Size: Length 3,620mm/1,631mm Size: Length 3,050mm/1,410mm.

Size: Length 3,227mm/1,485mm Price: £8,995. Price: Basic £6,133, SX £6,591, Sporting £7,054.

Performance: (SX) 0-60mph in 19.6 seconds, top speed 82mph, fuel consumption average 47.6mpg. Equipment: (SX) kmmobiliser, central locking, manual sunroof, electric front wandows, radio

cassette all standard. For: If price is the priority then it's hard to beat. Against: Has driver appeal, but

Verdict: For cheap and sheerful motoring still leads the way, but not so

Performance: (for 1.3) 0-60mph in 12.2 seconds, top speed 90mph, fuel consumption 43mpg average. Equipment: 12-Inch sport wheels, teather steering wheel. Electric sunroof £795, leather trim £500, wooden door cappings £295, aports pack

For: Uttimate city car. Against: Noisy, harsh and very. very expensive.

Verdict: The one and only. Nearly middle-aged, but refusing to show it. But cut the price to make it the

Price: £7,820 (£8,665 Ka 2) Performance: (with power steering) 0-60mph in 14.3 seconds,

top speed 96mph, fuel consumption 42.2mpg average. Equipment: High-security locks and immobiliser, soft-feel steering wheel, seatbelt grabbers. Ka 2 has as standard: power steering, central locking, power windows and driver seat adjustment pack.

For: A joy to drive in or out of town. Against: Cutesy marketing and Verdict: A mini for the Nineties, but

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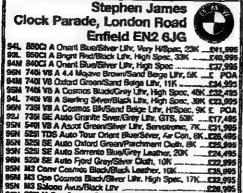
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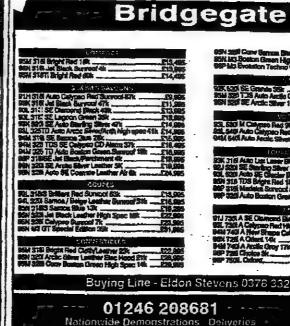
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Eve-Ann Prentice on new research into real drivers that shows safety devices can actually cause injuries

Vomen don't act like dummies

ideotapes of people who were unaware they were being filmed seem to prove what has long been suspected: women tend to do it close up, while large, young men prefer to do it at arm's length.

Filmed in Britain and America, the tapes provide evidence that dummies used in crash tests fail to show important differences in how sex, build and age can affect the way people are injured in road

Women and the elderly are at greater risk in a head-on smash than young and middle-aged men, partly because, eing generally shorter and lighter, they sit closer to the steering wheel and dashboard. They also risk being hurt by the very safety devices that are supposed to safeguard them: head-rests, airbags and even seatbelts.

The films are part of research programme by Murray Mackay, Professor of Transport Safety at Birmingham Accident Research Centre. He and his team say that filming drivers and front seat passengers when they were unawage they were being watched showed that the seated position adopted by real drivers ap-peared to differ greatly from the standard seated position assigned to Hybrid III dummies in crash tests".

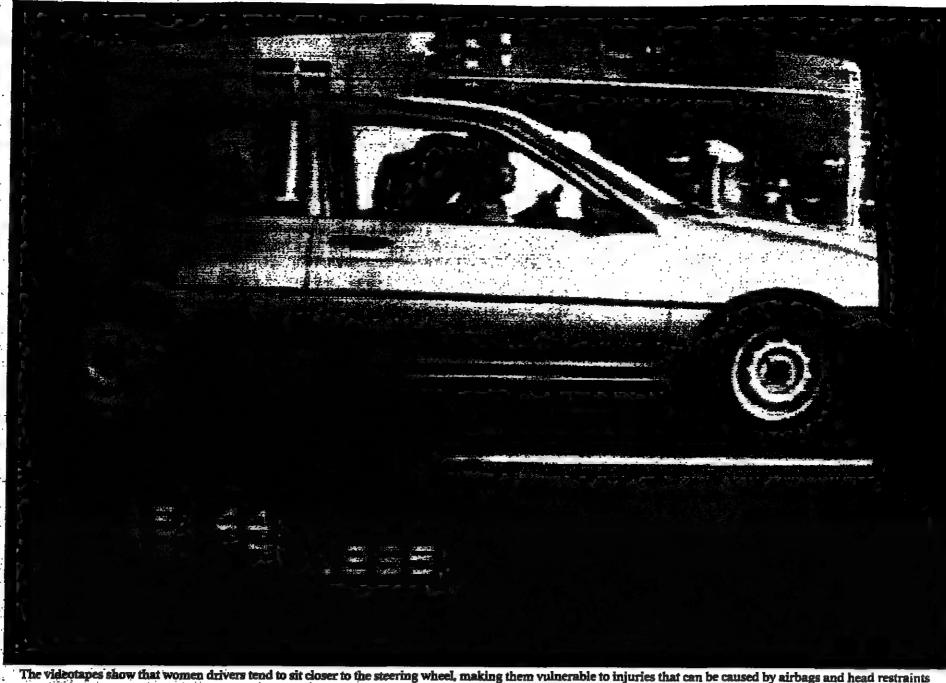
n a paper outlining his findings from a series of studies, he adds: "Since dummies do not appear to represent the real driver population in terms of head position, considerable doubt is prown upon the practice of sing conventional dummy positions in the design process."

Speaking from his offices at

Birmingham University on the day it was reported that a one-year-old baby girl was decapitated by an airbag in-Boise, Idaho, Dr Mackay also. explained how safety equipment can do more harm than ers and passengers sitting too close to the dashboard and head restraints can snap peo-ple's necks and heads backwands over the top of them in rear-end smashes unless they are positioned high enough behind the head. If the drivers or passengers sit too far fortheir heads are slammed back into

With airbag technology. sitting closer than the design position to the steering wheel-carries risk of increased injury the brain, neck and chest. especially with the large vol-ume North American bag,"

says Dr Mackay. Even seathelts, while acknowledged as making a huge impact in saving lives, can cause harm if not worn corbroken ribs and the obese



often find it all but impossible to fasten seatbelts correctly, low across the pelvis. Instead. the overweight fasten the belts abdominal injuries in the

event of an accident. Dr Mackay's unit has discovered that women sit up to 8.5ms closer to the dashboard than men however, tall. young men are more likely than women to be injured in side-on crashes. The revelation came after video cameras were set up at right angles to the traffic flow which, in America, recorded the drivers and passengers in 37 popular car models, and in Britain in

Passengers were even more unpredictable than drivers in the way they sat, and were consequently in even greater danger of injury when fidgeting or stooping to look at bags on the floor. in Britain, where cars tend to be smaller than in : America, nassengers were also prone to sit close to the

19 makes of vehicle.

were pushed forward to accommodate rear-seat pass-

r Mackay believes that hi-technology "smart" safety devices which measure seat occupants and calculate the way they sit should be built into future

What is fascinating is that safety now sells cars" he says. Things have really moved, with the industry now being positive as opposed to neutral or negative." He believes that most cars could be made 10 to 20 per cent safer for about £50

Dr Mackay explains the difference between airbags fitted in America and those in Britain. In the US, half the driving population does not seatbelt, even though this is mandatory, and the bags are designed to inflate in accidents at 10mph and over.

dashboard because their sears "In Europe, the philosophy is that everyone is wearing belts, so airbags here don't inflate until impacts of 18 to 20mph,"

European airbags are also designed to protect the head only, so have half the volume of the American version and take longer to inflate. Dr Mackay, whose work is

funded by the Department of Transport, some car manufacturers and the makers of safety devices, started work at Birmingham in 1964. As the son of two doctors, he grew up a medical environment. "When I first started, I used to go to the scene of crashes. At that time, the only source of information about accidents was the police and insurance companies. We developed techniques for detailed crash

investigation." Has he ever been involved In an accident himself? "I have never had a real crash, though I did spin an MG I once had,"



Murray Mackay: "considerable doubt" over using conventional dummy positions

WARNING The way to take your seat in safety

YOUR stature and how you sit can affect how badly injured you might be in a crash. The main points to watch are:

Sit well back and try not to peer over the seering wheel. Position the seat correctly to help you do this,

• At least 88 per cent of people have the head restraint positioned too low and 24 per cent sit too far forward of it. Bad positioning of the restraint can increase the risk of injury in rear impacts, when the head and neck can whip backwards over the device.

 The risk of sitting too far forward of the head restraint is greater in large cars, especially for small women.

 Wear your seatbelt correctly, fastened over the pelvis. Seatbelts can break ribs and cause abdominai injuries when worn too high over the stomach.

 If you are a frontseat passenger, try not to move your seat too far forward to make room for people in the back, and sit facing forwards. In America, passengers were shown to be at risk by bending down to investigate shopping or other belongings on the floor. Passengers also face greater injury when sitting at an angle, which is easier to do if you are not straight like the Airbags can inflate

with explosive force, especially in America where they are more powerful to meet US safety standards. One driver suffered a badly injured eye when the stem of the pipe he was smoking was snapped off by an inflating airbag in a low-speed accident.
The broken pipe and hot ash are believed to have caused his injury.

Vaughan Freeman discovers the rules of motoring's bottom line



Kindly adjust your seat: Freeman concentrates on sorting out his driving posture

Newcastle United football star Les Ferdinand was looking for a more comfortable seat for his Aston Martin DB7 cabriolet, the advice he got from Terry Moule, his sports injury guru and back expert, was crucial in helping him decide which seat

Two decades ago when Eng-land footballer Gerry Francis found driving so uncomfort-able that it was putting his soccer career at risk, it was Moule who came to the rescue by analysing his problem and finding an answer. Now Moule, whose patient

list has included everyone from Sebastian Coe to Olympic multi-gold medallist oars-man Steve Redgrave, is helping Britain's motorists to sit comfortably.

Almost two-thirds of drivers

covering more than 10,000 miles a year suffer clinical back pain that is either caused or aggravated by poor adjustment of the driving seat. Apart from the misery such complaints cause, a driver suffering from back pain is going to be less alert, to tire more quickly, and ultimately is less safe at the wheel.

Already Vauxhall has modified the seats in its Vectra saloon. The seats had been designed to suit German drivers whose preference for boardlike padding and a back-numbing lack of cushioning did not suit the seating taste of Britons. Now, in a separate initiative, Vauxhall has asked Moule to write a booklet for every model in its range, giving owners advice on how the seat should be adjusted.

Back to basics on the seating arrangements

Moule, the softest seat is not the best: "A poorly designed seat that is properly adjusted will always be better for a driver than a well designed seat that is poorly adjusted." It is not a new problem either: "In the late 1970s the England football player Gerry Francis had a Triumph Stag. He had a recurring injury at the time which he was trying to get over and every time Gerry drove his Stag he had problems with it. I found the driving seat in his Stag was much too low and flat. Every time he was accelerating or

Like the softest bod, says

braking. he was moving around on the seat, and there was no lumbar support. "Because he was suffering All too often, he says, drivfrom a prolapsed disc in his

spine, all the time he was figging about in his seat the disc was being inflamed and it was holding up his recovery from injury. It almost finished his footballing comeback". Moule prescribed Francis a Saab. Since then Moule. a naturopath and osteopath

who specialises in sports inju-

in the motoring industry and it was a niggling back injury that led him to Vauxhall. When he met Ed Sabisky,

Vauxhall's finance director, at a sporting event the conversation soon switched to cars and to Sabisky's recurring back problem. Moule diagnosed a poorly adjusted driving seat. Sabisky's recovery was so marked that he asked Moule to share his expertise with Vauxhall's customers.

oule says: "When you buy a new car L you are likely to get an owner's manual with 15 pages on how to tune the radio, but nothing on how to tune the driver's seat so it suits

er's seats are so soft that while they seem comfortable at first. they cause serious back problems long-term. Even seats that have been well designed can be ruined by marketing executives who then decide lush piping and stitching should be added. These only destroy the seat's ability to support the driver properly.

Improved car seat design might even have caused as many problems as it has solved. Seats offering adjustments in height and tilt, forward and backward movement, lumbar pads, head restraint and steering wheel rake only give motorists the ability to adjust their seat in ways that are hopelessly un-

comfortable and damaging. Moule says: "In eight out of ten cases motorists will have a perfectly adequate car, but they just don't know how to sit in it." Part of the problem is that the old-fashioned attention once paid to posture, "walk tall, stand tall, sit tall", no longer applies.

"In a properly adjusted seat the driver can relax, which means it is possible to respond and to react more quickly. Tension is generated by trying to adjust the body to an uncomfortable seat, which slows down reactions and is potentially dangerous. When was the last time you saw a tense Grand Prix driver? The more tense you become, the more tired you become."

in your car starts with taking off your coat and jacket and driving in a shirt or blouse. Sit in the driving seat and move it backwards and forwards until you can press the throttle and clutch without having to use

any leverage in your legs. Then adjust the seat back and steering wheel tilt so that your arms, with the hands at roughly the height of your shoulders, are only slightly bent and hold the wheel at about the ten to two position.

Feel under your thighs and adjust the seat tilt so it supports your thighs to take strain off the muscles of the buttocks and lower back. The lumbar adjust should then be used until it can just be felt, but not so that it feels like a spare cushion stuffed down

Tinally, the head restraint should be adjusted so the top of it is level with your eyes. When driving, it is important that you sit back in your seat and do not edge forward: this puts strains and stresses through your body

from neck to ankle. Does it work? Moule advised that I sit too far forward. which brings my thighs off the front of the seat and so places strain on my lower back. This is aggravated by my having the seat-back too upright so it gives virtually no support, placing all the stress on my buttocks and lower back.

The only problem is that initially it feels very peculiar. Says Moulc: "Having adjusted your seat, it probably takes about two weeks to get used to the new position because your Preparing to sit comfortably

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CARMATILY OUR SUIDE TO WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT'S USED, ON THE FORECOURTS

FORECOURT

TOUGH as nails and durable, the Isuzu Trooper is increasingly popular secondhand, reports CAP Black Book Brilliant 28 and 3.1-litre diesel engines mean the Trooper can climb or cope with sticky off-road conditions. All-round abilities are good, too, and big dimensions ensure good accommodation. Go for the long-wheel base 3.1litre Citation turbo. A 1992 Kreg, with air-conditioning and anti-lock brakes, costs about £15,000 average mileage. Watch for whistling turbos and leaking shock absorbers.

If Trooper is big, then the Honda Prelude is a nimble coupé. Used prices remain high because the two-door is much in demand for perfor-mance and reliability. Best buy is a 2.0 EXi, and even for a six-year-old car expect to pay £5,000. Beware over-priced four-wheel-steer models, which demand a hefty premium over regular two-wheel steer models. Beware also Preludes with little or no service history. Check that the air-conditioning works properly. Check insurance, too; the Prelude is sporty and premiums might reflect your insurance firm's concern. Best to find out before you put down

Almera's magical makeover

ROADTEST

■ IT'S MARVELLOUS when women go to a glamour consultant to have their hair done and lots of make-up applied. They set off unremarkable plain Janes and come back looking like Sharon Stones.

Similar things happen in the car world, as I discovered with Nissan's own resident plain Jane, the Almera, Kevin Eason writes. The Almera is a perfectly fine little car but typically Nissan in that it has the personality of a cardboard box and as much style as ... well, another cardboard box

Then Nissan sent the Almera off to the beauty parlour for a bit of a makeover and back came a beauty. A little bit of engineering liposuction and the motoring equivalent of a Wonderbra. has turned plain old Almera into a GTi, which is the sort of car you would actually like to show off.

At £13,995, the Almera GTI is pretty good value, particu-larly for a car which mixes performance with road-holding as well as it does. You will



Almera: Nissan has turned it into the sort of car you would actually like to show off

pay more for an Astra or equivalent Peugeot, but have to toss up whether you fancy an Escort RS2000 or VW Golf GTi more, because they are

roughly the same price.
Think before you choose though for there will be few cars in any segment of the market so capable of cornering swiftly but safely. That is mainly thanks to Nissan's new multi-link beam rear suspension which keeps the GTi on track with admirable steadiness. Nissan pioneered the system on its QX executive model but the suspension works wonders on this little two-door, supporting it through every curve.

Equipment levels are com-

fortingly high with electric windows, mirrors and sunroof, central locking with alarm and immobiliser and compact disc player, though the criticism that endures of all Japanese cars applies to the interior, which is as drab and uninteresting as ever. Don't the Japanese ever sit on a chair which strikes them as

speed 131mph, fuel consumption 25.7 miles to the gallon in town, 43.5mpg out of town. Price: £13,995 (includes 3-year warranty).

NISSAN

ALMERA

Engine: Two-litre, 16-

through five-speed

Performance: 0-

valve producing 140hhp.

manual gearbox, driving

62mph in 8.2 seconds, top

attractive? If they translated the expanse of dull plastic and dingy cloth covers they have in their cars to their homes, they would spend all of their time down at the pub seeking warmth and comfort.

Apart from that whinge though, the Almera is a cracker. Good fun, quick but predictable and actually quite presentable to look at. Now there's a novelty for Nissan: perhaps they should send all of their cars for a beauty makeover.

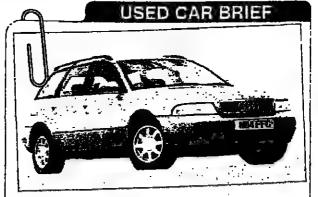
were: Rover 200, Ford's Fiesta and Escort, Vauxhall's Cavalier and Astra, Peugeot 405. Rover Metro, Rover 400, Ford

Police Escort

Sierra and old-style Astra.



TESTS of a Ford electric car by police in Hampshire have been a success. The Ecostar is based on an Escort van, but in place of a petrol engine carries sodium-sulphur batteries that give a range of about 100 miles and speeds up to 70mph. The police Ecostar covered 17,000 miles on test, one of 100 UKmade vehicles being evaluated for Ford around the world.



Audit Mr.

Launched two years ago to replace the Audi 80, the A4 was almed without apology at rival BMW's hugely successful 3-earies. Any car able to do that would need to be styrish, well-built, ooze automotive flair and be sporty to drive. The A4 delivered in spades: it comes as a "compact" saloon and estate. Engine range is wide and includes 1.9-litre turbo-diesels and petrol engines from 1.6-litres up to the sturning 2.8 V6 quatire and the 150bhp 1.81.

GOOD NEWS
There is no such thing as a heir-shirt AA. All come well-equipped and creature common stound. All versions teature everything from central locking, engine immobiliser, steering height adjustment and driver side airbag to electric front windows.

Avant Estate. Only a year or so old but perhaps the one to go lor. A competitor for the BMW 3-series Touring, the Avant Estate series At state and Awant Estate marries At style and performance to a useful amount of extra carrying capacity which turns a less than carrenous saloon into a for more flexible machine.

AVOID
The 1.6-litre version, which offers only 100 brake horse power, it teels slow and heavy, particularly when full of people and luggage. Base cars are not so special but SE (special equipment) cars are worth going for as they feature air conditioning and leather upholstery.

BAD NEWS
Rear legroom is at a pre "n and long jour, a in the back are not recommended for talier adults. The A4 is relatively new and sall comewhat acres on the used car merket, which means that each open through the

SAFETY RATING Recent Audis score well in the Department of Transport's "Choosing Safety" league tables. The At is no exception, as airbags and smill-lock braking festure. The quatro in particular provides excellent road holding even in adverse weather conditions tranks to its raily proven four-wheel drive system.

9 (Prices include VAT); Clutch assembly £210; adhaust system £340;

Cover from AA insurance (0800 444777) on a 1935 A4 insurance (0800 insurance insuranc Expect to pay £15,000 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8 saloon, £16,400 for a 1995 M-reg 1.8 lize saloon, £16,500 for a 1995 M-reg 1.9-lize saloon £16,500 for a 1995 M-reg 1.9-lize saloon and £20,500 for a 1995 M-reg 2.8-lize saloon and £20,500 for a 1995 M-reg 2.8-lize quattro.

Long service intervals of 10,000 and 20,000 miles, plus Audit a shared use of many parts from perent car firm, VW, means the A4 is not as expensive to service as might first be feared. Look for full service history care which have been teithfully cared for by approved Audi dealers to protect the reassuringly



■ VAUXHALL has relaunched its Omega range to keep the car at the top of the sector for executive cars. Omega took over the number one slot from Ford's Scorpio and is a favourite with company fleets as well as private buyers, but gets a series of changes, particularly at the top and

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Base prices start at £18,250 with a

MERCEDES

2-litre lov engine as the starter power pack, enough for a top speed of 130mph, to add to the 2.5-litre turbodiesel and British-built 3-litre, 24valve V6, which has a 149mph top speed. Top price is £29,500.

There is also more flexibility choosing extras, with buyers able to swap a sunroof for air-conditioning or have cabling for a carphone.

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SPARE PARTS

June will now be a Scenic month

■ BRITISH buyers will have to wait for Europe's new Car of the Year. Renault launched its Megane Scenic in October with UK deliveries due in February. But Renault says Continental sales took 35 per cent of all orders in October which means British deliver-ies will have to wait until June.

Rover 200 leads

ROVER's 200 is a popular second-hand buy, according to the Car Shop, the advertising service on Sky Text Interactive or the Internet. The top ten

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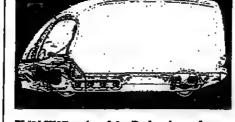
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III IN THE wake of the Budget boost for gas power come designs for a new vehicle, fuelled by compressed natural gas (CNG). Tickford, one of Britain's top body specialists, believes CNG will be the third fuel of the future because of its practicality cleanly as and because of its practicality, cleanliness and efficiency close to petrol performance. But purpose-built gas vehicles are in short supply, which is why the Milton Keynes company has come up with its own (above), which packages the gas storage tanks, allowing maximum room for passengers or freight.

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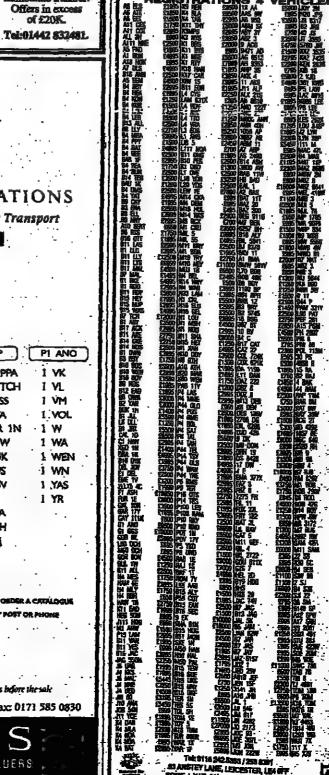
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a Tornado t is exactly six years to the day that John Nichol, an RAF navigator, landed in Bahrain as part of Operation Desert Storm. He went out with his pilot. Fit Lt John Peters. One month later, having taken part in a bombing raid in southern Iraq, their aircraft was struck by a Sam-14 surface-to-air

desert, were captured and held as prisoners of war for 49 days. The image of Nichol and Peters, paraded for the benefit of international television by Saddam Hussein, is one of the most abiding of the Guif War. In September 1992 the account of their ordeal. Tornado Down, topped the bestsellers list. The sequel, Team Tornado, sold 60,000 in hardback. Nichol's military career ended in March after 15 years when he took voluntary redundancy to concentrate on writing. Point of Impact, published by Hod-der & Stoughton, is his first novel.

missile. They ejected over the Iraqi

How did you first learn to drive?

learnt in the RAF as a trainee technician. It was in a Mini Metro. I was privileged to fail the first test in Weston-super-Mare when I was 17. I never made fast enough progress through the traffic. I passed the second at Witney at my next base. I was amazed because I took it in my big RAF boots and combat uniform I was driving old Bedfords which had survived the Second World War. I then passed my HGV test.

What was your first car?

Honda Accord. I bought it after the Falklands War. I had been in the RAF for one year when I was sent to the South Atlantic. I never spent any money during the three months was on board the British Tamar. It was a task force refuelling ship.

What car do you drive now, and why?

BMW 528 SE. It is six months old. It is the most expensive item I have STEERING COLUMN

Andrew Pierce talks to John Nichol

bought since my house. I was looking in the window of a Porsche garage. But I wandered next door to a BMW garage and bought the car on the strength of a photograph. The new model had not arrived.

Do you like driving?

It's better

than flying

It's fantastic. I drive at least 30,000 miles a year. I don't miss the Tornado. Flying at 700mph be-comes day-to-day and routine. I managed 140mph in my BMW. Not here, of course; on an autobahn. I did some rally driving for the day in an airfield north of Oxfordshire which was really hairy. I keep my hand in with flying. I presented a series for the BBC on adventure days out and flew a Cessna.

What is your most hated car?

VW Beetle. I borrowed one for two months. They are dreadful, rattly old things which are truly horrible. I cannot understand why they have attracted such a cult following.

What is your dream car?

BMW 850. Alas, that is all it will ever be unless I remortgage the house or cash in the insurance policies. Not unless my book be-comes a bestseller. They cost £85,000 to £90,000.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Giving a running commentary about what I am doing and what other people are doing. Luckily I drive mostly on my own. It is an old habit from flying and looking out of the cockoit so I can see what people are doing in a couple of miles' radius. You talk all the time to



John Nichol: "I don't miss the Tornado. Flying at 700mph becomes routine. I managed 140mph in my BMW. Not here, on an autobahn."

control towers or base when you are motorway. There is no anticipation in a plane. In the car I end up talking to myself.

What infuriates you most about

It's not the fault of the other drivers but the way they are taught. More to the point, the way that they are not taught. We are taught how to operate a car, not to drive and control it. You can see it on the

have done in your car?

driver it is the equivalent of laughbridge. I had to double declutch. But I moved from third to reverse. As the ing at his manhood. gears crunched, the gearbox drop-What is the most unusual thing you ped out, the drive shaft snapped, and I coasted to a halt on the humpback. For six hours. It caused one of

I was driving down a hill in Bur-

in people's reactions. It's all defen-

sive. Everyone thinks he or she is the

best driver in the world. No one,

including myself, recognises his weaknesses. If you criticise a male

ford, Oxfordshire, in an HGV with a shire. It made the television and trailer. I had just passed my test. I radio news. It was mortifying. was with an instructor who was teaching me to drive with a trailer. It weighed 32 tonnes. At the bottom of

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing

Institute a programme, similar to the one in Germany, of driver training. They have commercials about safe driving, paid for by the Government, between the German equivalent of Coronation Street. the worst traffic jams in Oxford-

A message some people never swallow

I see there's another Gov-ernment campaign against drinking and driving. Haven't we all got the message now?

A Drink-driving deaths are less than a third of what they were when these campaigns began in 1979. But last year's total at 580 was a slight increase on 1994.

Will a campaign like this Will a campaign income really get through to the

DR DASHBOARD

Despite every effort, it's very Despite every enort, it's very difficult to get the message through to some people, especially those who are in the high-risk age group between 17 and 24. In the latest campaign it's the driver's girifriend who gets maimed. That might just make an impact on people who confess little concern for their own safety.

enough to ride with someone obviously over the limit?

the hill there is a small humpback

A It seems they would. In a survey by Touchline Insurance revealed this week, 40 per cent admitted accepting a lift from someone who had been drinking. So what should you do if you

are offered a lift like that?

A Everything in your power to prevent the person driving. If

you simply can't dissuade them. then don't get in the car. But how can I tell when someone has had too much

A You can't. Drink affects people differently: even one can prove too much for some. Police figures show that a driver just below the legal limit runs twice the risk of an accident than one who has not touched a drop.

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Oh, ye'll take the longest road

Eve-Ann Prentice talks to the owners of a rare and exotic 72-year-old that will be joining other time-honoured cars at Land's End this morning for a rally across the length Britain, testing both them and their drivers to the limits

spiration behind the first car which will set out this morning on the Land's End to John o' Great's rally, ingeniously called Le Jog from the locations' initials. Peter and Sue Noble set their hearts on acquiring their 1925registered Lanchester Tourer after becoming fixated, during a visit to India, by another Lanchester owned by the Maharajah of Alwar. Noble, whose car is the oldest entrant in the three-day AA Le Jog event, first saw the Maharajah's

sadistic, bisexual Indian

prince is the unlikely in-

gramme in the late 1960s. Years later, during a trip to India, he and his wife discovered that the prince's widow and son were trying to renovate the vehicle. Fired with new enthusiasm after meeting the Maharajah's family, Noble began scouring the world and eventually tracked down the machine he owns today in America, after seeing it advertised for sale in

Lanchester in a television pro-

chester, complete with England's Coronation Coach painted on the back and accompanied by liveried white horses, was used as a hunting vehicle by the Indian aristocrat. He used to tie young animals to a tree to lure tigers into view, then shoot the big cats from his car when they turned up for the trussed-up snacks, according to Noble. The Maharajah was also noted for taking swift revenge on a recalcitrant polo pony by having the animal doused in petrol and

ignited. The Nobles' Lanchester, which was made in 1924 but not registered until a year later, is enjoying a far more altruistic, though no less exciting, life than its Indian counterpart. The classic car-loving Nobles have just returned from Jordan after driving their car in the London-Jerusalem rally. And if the 1,660-mile Le Jog were not testing enough, the couple plan to enter next year's Peking-Paris marathon which covers 10,000 miles and will

take two months.

The Nobles, who live in Loughton. Essex, are confident they will reach John o' Groat's on Tuesday after spending 35 hours awake driving between Cornwall and Edinburgh, followed by a 24-hour grind through Scotland. They made it two years ago, but last year were forced to pull out after reaching the River Severn.

Keeping awake will be the hardest part," says navigator Sue. Her husband agrees, but insists: "It is easier to keep awake in an open car when the weather is freezing. Every minute you are expecting something to go wrong. After all, the Lanchester is 72 years old and weighs three tons."

Do they argue if things go wrong? "We do fall out, but it doesn't amount to much," says Peter, "It's a lot easier for man and wife. We have known best friends argue and one gets out and storms

Today, there are just 12 such Lanchesters left in existence and the Nobles' is the only surviving left-hand drive. In its heyday, the future George VI had one when he was Duke of York, as did the Emperor of Japan and Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. But many were scrapped during the Second World War because the bodywork was made of valuable aluminium. bronze, solid nickel and duralumin needed for the war effort.

The Nobles' Lanchester can take 37 gallons of petrol to feed its 6,178cc straight six engine, the radiator nine gallons of coolant and there are nine gallons of engine oil, four of gearbox oil and one-and-ahalf gallons of oil in the back axle. Fuel consumption is Ilmpg "if driven nicely" and 6mpg "in the

The Nobles also own a 1955 Bentley SI Continental nicknamed Hero, a veteran of longer journeys than the Lanchester has yet undertaken, including trips to Peking, Hong Kong, Tibet and Saigon.

As the Nobles set off on Le Jog this morning, a father and son team will be waiting to take their turn to leave in the first rally they have ever undertaken - "rally virgins" in the jargon of Le Jog. If the course were not daunting enough, they also have to overcome a physical handicap because Philip Waterman, the son, is recovering

from a broken ankle.
Driving a 1958 MGA, Philip and Ron Waterman say that entering the rally "seemed a good idea in the pub". What does Philip think will be the most difficult thing? "Staying awake, not falling out with my father and not getting lost in the middle of the night in the middle of

To try to prepare for the rally, Philip Waterman tried to hone his navigation skills on a course at the National Motor Cycle Museum in Birmingham. "I didn't fare too well." he admits.

For those who do run into trouble on Le Jog, ideal help will be on hand from seasoned AA roadside rescue teams. Four AA vehicles manned by eight people will cover each of the 26 main points along the

"We are working out our own mini-rally," says the AA's Mike Swift, "We have a good team and all of us have had some experience; have been on the London to Mexico car run, and some us have



Sue and Peter Noble ready for their third Le Jog. "It's easier to keep awake in an open car when the weather is freezing. Every minute you are expecting something to go wrong."

1996 AA LE JOG RALLY ROUTE light heit: 17.30-07.15 Jim Clark Room), 14.45 ck Inn 09.45 Kirkby Lonadale 09:00 Machynlieth 00.01 Treceron 21,30 Brecon 20.00-Magor Services (M4) ... Supper helt: 16.00 Dec Tauration 15.10 -Exeter by-pass 12.50 Okabamuton 11.45-START LAND'S END 07.46 Saturday December 7 Night stages

Among the time-honoured machines hoping to avoid the AA's mechanical attention will be a 1941 Lincoln Continental brought from Seattle by Donald and Bonita Saunders, along with a magnificent 1928 boat-tailed Rolls-Royce Phantom I being entered by Germans Gerhard Weissenbach and Su-

sanne Hulisti. Three Bentleys will also brave the journey, two open-to-the-elements vintage 412-litre tourers and, at the other end of the age and comfort spectra, a sybaritic 1952 R-Type Continental driven by Gerry Leumann of Switzerland.

For spectators who want to spot people as well as cars, many noted historic rally drivers are taking part including three of the Le Jog's four previous gold medallists: Geoff Awde in an MGA, Mike Tomlin in an Alvis 12/60 and

The toughest distance between two points

ilots, veterinary sur-geons and a sheet metal worker are among the 240 people who will go to extraordinary lengths — 1,659.66 miles to be precise in the next three days to try to prove that their cars are growng old gracefully, writes Eve-

They are competitors in Le Jog, the misleadingly laconic-

sounding acronym for the gruelling AA from 22 years to 7). So how did John Brown set Land's End to John o' Groat's rally which tests hundred and twenty venerable machines will set out from a windswept Cornish clifftop this morning to travel the length and much of the breadth of England, Wales and Scotland. The trip could be completed in 868 miles, but is nearly double that in the rally because of the twisting nature of the route and the mentality

of the man whose brainchild it is. John Brown, Oxford graduate and "an anorak before there were anoraks", had long pondered the trials and tribulations possible on a Land's End-John o' Groat's run before planning and making it a reality in 1993.

This year, AA car finance is sponsoring the event. They approached us and it is a tremendous fillip, they have given a lot of

help," says Brown. Sleeplessness is one of the main tests facing the entrants: Le Jog begins at 8am this morning followed by a 36-hour marathon to Edinburgh, a few hours of snatched sleep and food there, followed by a 24-hour slog to John o' Groat's. Brown is a veteran navigator who entered the 1961 RAC Rally in a Saab alongside Erik Carlsson - and won. Since he cannot enter his own brainchild rally, he

competes in other historic rallies "for fun". Le Jog, as Britain's longest rally, is loosely based on the long-distance events popular between 1920 and 1960. Cars and four-wheeldrive utility vehicles made before January 1, 1976 are eligible to enter.

Since there is no overall winner, there are class awards and medals for reaching certain levels of performance. Competitors tackle a variety of tests, including long open handling trials against the clock, observed tests of driving skills and a lap time consistency test

Crews.

Austria, Germany, Holland, Nor-

way, Switzerland and America
The next three days will not be all

flood, sweat and tears, however.

Running alongside the main Le Jog reliability trial will be a gentler

touring trial, entered by about 20

on a racing circuit. Competi-tors usually end up doing battle against others in their own class, of which there are a Le Jog is no

joyride — and the red tape is longer than the rally itself

begin arriving in John of Groat's on Tuesday morning. Thirty makes of car will take part this year, varying in age

The aspect most newcomers

dread is night navigation. Red-eyed entrants are expected to

about establishing - and running - what has Britain in just three years? The red tape is beyond belief ... it is longer

total of 20.

than the rally," he says. "Since all events on the public highway are under Government regulation, we have to give the RAC in England and Wales, and the RSAC in Scotland, full details of the route, in some cases tracings in triplicate, from the Ordnance Survey map. We have to get permission from the police, National Park authorities and private landowners."

stonishingly. Brown and the 600strong army of people he needs to Lorganise Le Jog also contact every single home not on a main road along the route to warn them. The team also helps entrants with insurance, competition licences and accreditation to motoring clubs.

Many people use Le Jog as an opportunity to raise money for charity, and for those who manage the manocuvrability, time-keeping and other tests particularly well there are gold, silver and bronze medals to be won. This is not as easy as it sounds - only four golds have been awarded since the event was first run in 1993.

Timing is especially important. In so-called regularity sections, drivers must maintain a constant speed over certain parts of the route. For most cars, the speeds are relatively low and easy to maintain in daylight, but much trickier at night. Secret checks are carried out with no prior warning and, to qualify for a medal, entrants must avoid being more than

five minutes late or early at these points.

The main prize is the AA trophy for the best team of three cars of the same make or model.

Although entrants in this sister

race do not take part in the special

tests, they still face a tough test of

their endurance since they must

main controls on the way. For everyone, it will be a long and

winding road.

complete the course and visit all the

NEWS IN BRIEF

AND BACK IN 1925 . . .

In 1925, the year Peter Noble's Lanchester

● In America, a court in Indiana ordered a

motorist who killed a pedestrian to spend an hour alone with the victim's corpse.

Walter Chrysler founded his company.

A gallon of petrol cost is 7½ d (8p).

A Rolls-Royce cost El,891 and the

Tourer took to the road:

Lanchester Tourer £1,800.

Wilson in a Porsche 356C.

former RAC Rally-winner Neil

Phil Surtees and John Bayliss

will be there in their now-familiar

Ford Willys Jeep, while the enormous Ford Thunderbird will be put

through its paces by John and Birgit aan de Stegge.

Historic prices

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

A STUNNING piece of million. A lengthy bidding racing history changed hands for £386,500 this week, when the Maserati 250F that won the 1959 Australian Grand

Prix was auctioned. The car in which Australian driver Stan Jones triumphed 37 years ago was one of 100 collectors' cars sold by Brooks at Olympia on Tuesday in a sale worth more than £3.3

IN 1927 MISS VIOLET CORDERY

BECAME THE FIRST HOMAN TO 😢

DRIVING AN INVICTA 3-LITRE

CIRCUMNIANGATE THE GLOSE

BY CAR ...

battle was fought over a 1929 Isotta Fraschini Tipo 8A formerly owned by Led Zeppelin's late manager, Peter Grant, before it went for

£106,000. Meanwhile, a 1939 Bentley 42-litre Le Mans Replica sold for £135,862 at another huge London auction run by Coys of

THE 175 MAIN VALUETALL LOTUS-

CARLTON IS THE WORLD'S

FISHER FOUR DOOR SALOOM.



Wizard of Oz Stan Jones's winning Maserati 250F

DISHESED BY SOME AS A

HOOMER-POWERED PLASTIC

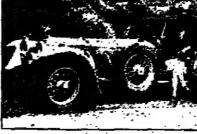
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CLOG, THE PISTEST SPEED BYER

THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 WAS ARE

RAN IN 1911 BUT NO BRITS WON .





is ready to. rally again

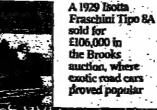


This low-slung 1932 4's litre S-Type Invicta went for £151.507. Restored from the chassis up, it

Type 57C that made £120,00 at the Coys ane-

a-Japanese

the last 10 years in



What the AA describes as "per-

haps the bravest entry" is a minuscule three-wheeled Morgan

Aero in which Ernst Krudop and

Willem van der Syder will try to

Among the 20 competitors from

will be entrants from

play Samson to the Goliaths. .



Pebruary, has been named Japan's car of the year. The Galant range of two-litre four-cylinder, and 25-litre su-cylinder, saloons and estates is due to go on sale in Britain in April, with prices starting from £17,269:

in April, with prince statung from Elipson.

Safety is high on the agenda, with driver and passenger front and side airbags standard on the 25-litre model, pretensioners for front seathelts and electric anti-trap

The range beat ZI competitors for the Japanese car of the year award, which is decided by a panel of motoring specialists and journalists.

THE only Jaguar D-Type to have been raced by Jim Clark, the Border Reivers car registration TKF 9, was needs stroyed at Goodwood but is owned and campaigned by - Counses



ALEER PA

A crocodile-shaped ice scraper or a sponge that plays Jingle Bells? Perhaps not. But buy him something electrical and he'll be happy all Christmas

What to park under the tree

realise that at this time of the year there are thousands of readers, especially women, who are paralysed with indecision as to what to buy male friends and family members for Christmas. Never fear, I am here. I have gone forth on your behalf and come back with the goods.

Well, all right, I haven't actually come back with any goods. But it's tough out there. Sir Ranulph Fiernes has had a lot of publicity for his Antarctic adventure, but trudging through blizzards for six months is a mere bagatelle compared with a voyage into the deeper recesses of the motoring accessories industry.

The reason I direct these remarks at women buying for men is not to be sexist. It is merely a recognition of the old saying that the only difference between boys - about the Christmas car accesso-



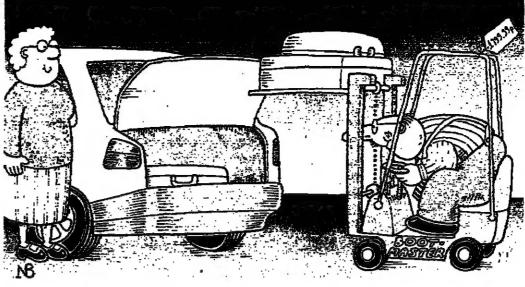
Barnard 63.99 for one litre? It looks like a

and men is that with men, the toys are more expensive. Men are gadget freaks and retailing junk-ies. The only truly astonishing thing about Fergie's overdraft is that it belongs to a woman. The important thing to realise

rejected out of hand. You may well think that a sponge shaped like a car which, when you squeeze it, plays Jingle Bells is the tackiest tem you could imagine, but some body out there is buying the Halfords Musical Car Sponge (£1.99). So don't be so sniffy. Or how about Car Shampers,

champagne bottle, complete with gold foil at the top and four stars on the label. Clearly the makers think the customers are morons because the label announces: "Not indeed the newest trend in this

barmy market is towards items that look like other items. Along with shampoo containers that look like bottles, there are ice scrapers with fluffy handles that imitate a crocodile or a hippopotamus (a



mere £4.99 each). Perhaps the idea is to encourage children to scrape the windscreen of a morning, a novelty I would expect to wear off

by Boxing Day at the latest. Obviously these are stocking fillers. More serious money can be expended on drivers and plenty of items are by now traditional. There are, for example, driving

gloves, at various prices up to about £20. But hang on a minute: what exactly are driving gloves? Perhaps they have some magic quality which helps us drive better.

escaping from the freezing winter chill into the warmth of their cars, urgently hunt around for a pair of gloves to put on.

But we must not be defeatist. don't think so. Perhaps there is a There are ways to please motoring man and they have to do with that law against wearing them for any other purpose. I seriously doubt it. curiously-named item, the car I would not go for driving gloves. cigar lighter. The cigar lighter is an electrical output and the word There are not many men who,

"electrical" has a special meaning for men. There is but a short stride of lateral thinking between "elec-

trical" and "gadget". Now you are talking. Now you are a mere credit card transaction away from something to put under the tree bearing a label that will fall off and be eaten by the dog. Now you are seconds away from the eyes of the recipient lighting up as a thought and a question rush through his mind. The thought: Just what I wanted. The question: What the hell is it?

A High Power Car Vacuum (£19.99) is what it is. It plugs into the cigar lighter! No it isn't. It is a Car Polisher (£9.99). It also plugs into the cigar lighter. Or is it a Power Beam Spotlight (£9.99). which also plugs into the cigar lighter? It could even be a powered screwdriver.

Why not just buy everything that plugs into the cigar lighter and divide the goods among family and friends. They can give him one item each. He'll be out there for hours, vacuuming, polishing, unscrewing things, screwing things up, having a high old time.

And even the consequences of this mania will not be too dire. provided someone has thought to buy him a battery charger (£14.99).



Road to ruin: there were 940 accidents, including 24 deaths, on the M6 last year, the emotional damage to the lives of drivers and their families does not appear in the statistics

hey are the wearlest workers in Britain. When they arrive at their desks, they are too tired and stressed to function; when they get home, they argue with their families, often ending up divorced, lonely and jobless. Drivers who have to tackle the terror of motorways on their way to

work suffer the worst stress, according to safety experts.

Bereavement, moving house, un-

employment and divorce used to top the list of events likely to push people to breaking point. But a survey for the British Safety Council found motorway driving to be the single biggest cause of stress. And they named the M6 as the nation's most stress-inducing road — even worse than the M25, which has the worst reputation in Europe for jams and

The 240-mile M6, which stretches from Birmingham through the Midlands and North West, carries an average 165,000 vehicles daily although many barely see a sight of the 70mph speed limit for miles at a time because traffic moves so slowly. particular around the West Midands. At worst - particularly in the Monday morning and Friday evening peak periods — they are caught up in jams up to 20 miles long, lengthening their journeys and erasing the prospect of an early start at the office or free time at home.

This motorway is bad for you

It's jam today and breakdown tomorrow. Kevin Eason looks at the road that is driving people out of their minds and their marriages

Simon Woodings at the AA says: Everyone talks about problems on the M25 each morning, but compared with the M6 that's nothing. The M6 is the busiest motorway in Europe and is an awful test of endurance for everyone using it, especially commuters. During bank holidays it is not unusual to see 25-mile traffic jams on the busiest stretch between Stafford and Birmingham.

*Every day commuters run a gauntlet of congestion, bad driving and road rage. It is no wonder that many people rate this daily experience as the most stressful in their

So stressful that Alan Norris, a consultant psychiatrist, says he has treated two people who gave up their already feel like a piece of chewed

jobs rather than face the daily horror of the M6, while others had moved house and job to escape their journey.
The stress which builds up through daily driving on the M6 is insidious," he says. "It builds up each day without the victim even being

any drivers who use the motorway regularly will suffer anxiand depression because of the daily frustration of being stuck in traffic," he adds. The tension can lead to palpitations and other health problems. By the time they get to work after hours on the M6 many will

string before the time even comes to face the other stresses of the day." That is when the problems multiply. Drivers constantly late because of traffic jams they cannot control rush into work stressed before they even contemplate their professional problems. When they arrive home, it s often so late and they are in such a filthy temper that the entire family is

made to suffer. The result is often

divorce - which causes more stress

in their lives. "Over a period of months and years the levels of stress continue to build until the victim comes to a complete standstill," warns Dr Norris. "Often the victim cannot contemplate returning to work and needs to

Peter Goodwin, chairman of the Association of Stress Management, says: "After hours in a traffic jam after an awful day at work, they can come home and have a blazing row with their partner which can lead to a

So much time is spent commuting that some workers lose any spare time, which should be spent relaxing, with their families or pursuing hobbies, according to Goodwin. "You spend a certain number of hours each day working, eating and sleeping and the rest you tend to regard as your spare time which is yours to do with

as you please."

Jim Brett, deputy director general of the Safety Council, warns that congestion has to be tackled otherwise stress will lead to more road rage and accidents. There were 940 accidents, including 24 deaths, on the

M6 last year. How to avoid stress while sitting immobile and helpless is not easy, but Goodwin advises drivers to forget the congestion, think of something else and listen to soothing music because, in the end, there is nothing they can do about a traffic jam. Anger

won't make it go away.
"In this country we all work too
hard," he says. "Wages are relatively
low compared with the rest of Europe and people are tired all the time. The last thing we need in already stressful lives in a nightmare like the M6."

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

B LONDON A4 Hammersmith. Road-works between Gliddon Road and North End Road on Talgarth Road, 10am-9:30pm. A302 Westminster. Resurfacing work on Victoria Street at junction with Great Smith Street and Broad

Sanctuary. SOUTH-EAST A4 Reading, Restrictions and lane closures between the Hogarth Roundabout and Burifeld Road. Expect delays at peak periods. A27 Brighton. Overnight maintenance on Brighton by-

maintenance on Brighton bypass between the
Hangleton Junction and Ditching Road Bridge.
M25 Essex. Maintenance
work between the A10 and
Waitham Abbey with narrow lanes and 50mph timit.
M27 Hampshire. Roadworks with contration between works with contraflow between Southampton East and

A32 Gosport, Hampshire. Off-peak lane closures for carriageway repairs be-tween Bridgemary and Forton. Godstone and the A3. A22 Purley, Surrey. Godstone Road reduced to

one lane southbound for roadworks at junction with Court Road. SOUTH-WEST A30 Victoria, Comwall. Temporary lights for resuriac

ing work. A35 Christchurch, Dorset. Lane closures both ways on Barrack Road for work on a new roundabout. M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at roundabout junction with the A419. Also roadworks for construction of a new road layout on the junction roundabout at J17 (Bristol West) and contrallow across the Avonmouth Bridge with a 50mph speed

limit. M4 Wiltshire. Contrailow with two lanes each way and a 50mph limit for major roadworks just west of J16.

 MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A6 Lockington, Leicester-shire. Contratiow from just north of the M1 J24 to Sawley Island (B6540) as me with no right turn into Donnington Lane. A525 Ash, Shropshire. Roadworks due to construc-

tion work. A12 Strationd St Mary, Suf-folk. Reduced to one lane both ways for major roadworks and entry slip roads are closed at Stratford Church. A14 Newmarket bypass, Suffolk. Lond term roadworks and a contraffow. A4114 Coventry. One lane

way repairs on London Road, near junction with Barr

A41 Wolverhampton. Temporary lights on Bilston Road at the Canal Bridge for strengthening works be Eagle Street and Chillington Street

NORTH M6 Cheshire, Reduced to three narrow lanes for widen-ing work near Thelwall Viaduct.

Viaduct. M6 Cumbria, Contraflow with two lanes in both direc-tions and a 50mph limit between J37 (Kendal) and J38

(Tebay). A59 Much Hoole, Lancashire. Resurfacing work on Liverpool Road causing major hold-ups in both direc-tions heading to and from

A57 Sheffield city centre.
Readworks on The Parkway near the Park Square roundabout. M1 West Yorkshire. Major long-term roadwroks continue erond the Leeds junction with lane and speed restric-

M1, M621 and Dewsbury A629 Keighley, West York-shire. Major roadworks with temporary lights on Halliax

WALES A482 Aberaeron, Ceredigion. Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed for reconstruction work. Diversions via Panteg Road

and the A487.
A470 north of Cefn Coed,
Merthyr Tydfil. Temporary lights on Brecon Road for major works; 40mph limit on A465 at Cefn Coed with temporary lights on Aberdare M4 Monmouthshire, Lane

closures between the Magor and Newport junctions as major widening work continues. A4067 Swansea, between Ynystorgan (M4 J45) and Landore. Contratiow operating with a single lane for construction work.

A472 Pontypool, Torfaen.
Contraflow between
Pontymoile and Heron
roundabout. Expect lengthy
delays, especially from the
A4042 direction. SCOTLAND

M8 Junction 2 Newbridge Spur (M9), Edinburgh. Major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout. A8 Princes Street, Edin-burgh, Closed eastbound, with diversions via South Char-lotte Street, Queen Street and York Place. A77 between Kilmamock and Ayr, North Ayrshire. Contraflow at Belifield inter-change, near to Spittaihili.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water wheels dry up

SO THE wonder of the car which ran on water never lived up to reality. The car was much publicised by a downmarket newspaper but its inventor, Stanley Meyer, was found goilty of fraud by an Ohio judge when his water fuel cell was tested. He was prosecuted because he tried to sell "dealerships".

CYCLISTS are planning to give badly-behaving London motorists a ticket. They will put a plastic sticker on the windscreen for offences such as obstructing a cycle route or double parking. No problem - if motorists can stick a plastic note on the helmets of cyclists who never signal, weave in and out of traffic and 'ignore traffic lights.



made from the same materi- es with personalised logos.

supercar, has taken to design-

ing hi fi speakers. The speak-

ers, from Rogers, at Mitcham in Surrey, were inspired by the rear curves of the FI and are

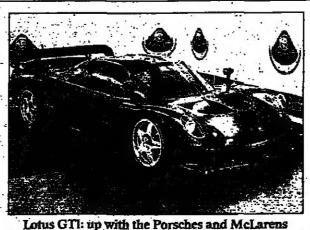
speakers but definitely not in

the car. Just 27cms high, the

speakers, called the db101,

retail at £399 and come in a

choice of nine different finish-



■ THIS is the car Lotus hopes will rebuild its reputation on the racetracks. After years in the wilderness. Lotus now has a secure future, thanks to more than £50 million worth of financial backing from Proton of Malaysia, and a hot new car in the shape of the gorgeous and much-praised Elise.

Now comes the GTI, the car Lotus hopes can win the Le Mans 24-hour endutance race as well as the GT Series world championships next year. It uses the same advanced alummium chassis system as the Elise but boasts a turbocharged 3.5-litre V8 good for 550 brake horse power. That should put Lotus up among the Porsches and McLarens which have been leading the GT series. The car takes over from the veteran Esprit and was entirely designed in house by Lotus Engineering and Lotus Racing.

Driving positions

■ ALL change in the motor industry, with executives moving into new jobs in some of the country's most prestigious companies.

 Bob Dover, Jaguar's chief sports cars engineer and the man who launched the winning XKS, is to become the new managing director and chief executive at Aston Martin. Bob brings 30 years production experience to the Newport Pagnell company. Graham Morris, 46, a former Rover director, is moving from Audi, where he was a

Motor Cars. Andrew Walmsley, formerly operations director at Lotus Cars, is to be managing direc-tor at Cosworth, while Hugh Kemp, the Lotus engineering managing director, is now engineering director at Pro-drive, maker of the Subaru



No rain for five years — then the British arrived. Kevin Eason on a desert storm that stopped a world record bid

Washout puts the dampers on Thrust

rain stopped play. The team in Jordan to break the world land speed record packed up its tents and abandoned the attempt as the heavens opened and its desert

The rain was the first in the Al Jair desert for five years and came just as the Thrust SSC team was preparing to attack the record. Unfortunately, the desert is almost at sea level and dozens of rivers poured into it when the rains eventually came.

And they came after to a month's bad weather and poor luck. Workers, aided by mem-bers of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, spent days clearing a track across 10 miles of desert, essential because even a stone could throw Thrust's solid aluminium wheels, designed to run at 8,500 revolutions per minute, disastrously off course. They cleared ten test tracks — only to see them Washed away again.
The car, powered by two

Rolls-Royce engines from a Phantom fighter jet and de-signed to run supersonic, reached a top speed of only 331mph, 302mph short of the 1983 record set by Richard Noble, Thrust's leader, and not even better than the 350,02mph set by John Cobb

The frustration for Andy Green, the RAF Tornado pilot who is guiding Thrust, was intense. For Noble and the

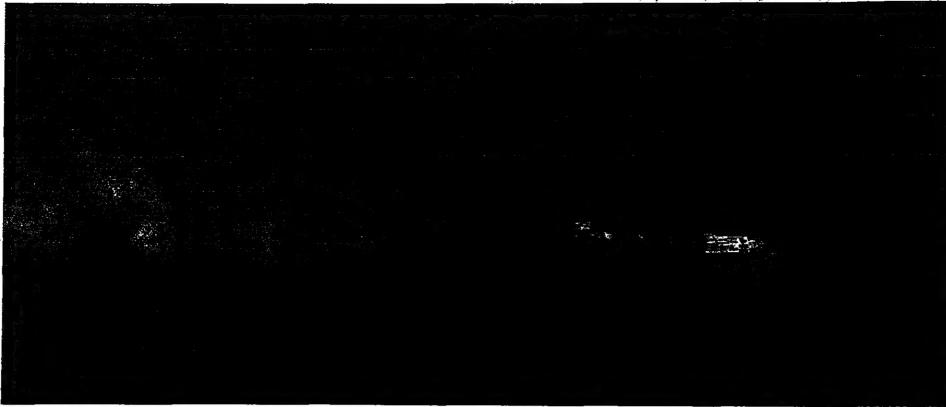
around the clock for weeks, the the decision to give up for this year heart-wrenching. "There was nothing we could do," he says. "Locals reckon it will be two to three months before the desert dries out again, so there was no point in sitting and

The plan now is to raise y more money to ensure the £15 million attempt can go ahead, with more practice runs at Al Jafr in March followed by the attempt to break the sound barrier on land at the Black Rock desert in Nevada next

The attempt was dogged by bad luck and the bizzare from day one. During the final run at Al Jafr, a severe steering fault showed up at about 300mph, forcing Green to deploy his three brake parachutes to ensure he stopped safely. Repairs were going on with spare parts being airlift-ed into Al Jair, but the time lag effectively scuppered the chance of another run as the weather closed in.

It was a struggle from the start. One day, the team was trying to keep dust out of delicate machinery, the next they were scurrying for shelter after tying down equipment and tents to cope with heavy

There was one other unexpected hazard. As Green prenared to fire the twin engines on his final outing, a camel wandered on to the track near



Tornado pilot Andy Green could not even match John Cobb's 1938 speed record before the attempt was abandoned in the sands of Al Jafr. At one point, even a camel got in the way



Thrust's designer, asked the handler to move it but was refused without the payment of cigarettes. Ayers is a nonsmoker, so the handler led his camel out in the centre of the track and tied up its legs so it couldn't move until suitable payment was forthcoming. Only intervention by local

police solved the problem. There is good news on the car though. Even the short tests at Al Jair were enough to confirm that it is stable, will be quick - and makes "a hell of a

lot of noise", according to

"We have a long, long way to go," he says. "But we have had a look at the car and it seems to work well. We just want to try it a little further to be fully confident before we go for any record attempts. We will only do that when we are certain that the car is going well and all the conditions are be worse than the first storm in five years on a stretch of desert which disappeared

Alan Copps on Platinum treasure

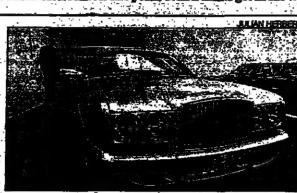
Hurry, hurry, there are only nine left

TO CAP what has been an outstanding year for Rolls-Royce and Bentley sales comes one of the most lavish special editions yet. Only ten Jack Barclay Platinum Bentley Azures will be made to mark the 70th anniversary of the world's leading distribu-tor of the fabulous cars made

The first Platinum Azure has already been sold from the company's showroom in Berkeley Square, Mayfair, to a Japanese businessman who bought it from an artist's impression. At £272,000, the car is £50,000 delivered to its new owner in

It is one of five cars to be finished in platinum with dark blue leather upholstery. The other five will be fin-ished in Le Mans green with sandstone upholstery. They are a tribute to the company's founder, Jack Barclay. one of the Bentley Boys the 24-hour race in the 1920s.

"The 70th anniversary is worthy of celebration. We feel the Platinum Anniversary Bentley Azure is perfect to mark the occasion," said Graeme Hunt, director and





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